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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

DIVISION OF STATISTICS.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

REPORT No. 4.

WAGES OF FARM LABOR

IN THE

UNITED STATES.

RESULTS OF NINE STATISTICAL INVESTIGATIONS, FROM 1866
TO 1892, WITH EXTENSIVE INQUIRIES CONCERNING
WAGES FROM 1840 TO 1865.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE STATISTICIAN,
Washington, D. C., April 2, 1892.

SIR: I respectfully submit the results of an investigation of farm wages, the ninth of a series of similar statistical inquiries, covering a period of twenty-six years, from 1866 to the present date. It is a consolidation of county averages, considering numbers of laborers at each rate of wages. The monthly rate for the year or season, both with and without board, are given; and transient or daily labor is reported, both for harvest work and for more miscellaneous service.

An interesting branch of the present investigation is an inquiry concerning wages between 1840 and 1865, with interesting transcripts from private records of actual wages paid by individuals for a long series of years.

Respectfully,

J. R. DODGE,
Statistician.

Hon. J. M. RUSK,
Secretary of Agriculture.

WAGES OF FARM LABOR.

RESULTS OF NINE INVESTIGATIONS—FROM 1866 TO 1892.

The investigations of rates of wages for farm labor, nine of which have been made during the past twenty-six years, have been very complete in method and satisfactory in result. Beginning when labor was in demand to repair the wastes of war, the average rates were high, gradually declining, finding lowest level in 1879, then rising to a normal status, which has been maintained with wonderful uniformity during the last ten years.

The most important facts ascertained are those of wages by the month, both with and without board, for the summer season or for the year. In such wages are included a very large proportion of the hired agricultural labor of the country. Of the transient labor employed, the most important is that of the harvest period. This is generally about 40 per cent higher than transient labor employed for other purposes, and higher also than regular monthly wages in nearly the same proportion. There is a great difference in the relative proportion of transient labor in the several geographical divisions of the country. In the South engagements for the year are the natural and customary rule of labor contracts, and transient labor is only available to a limited extent, and only desirable for excess of cotton-picking or for the trucking and fruit-growing harvest exigencies, which are annually claiming increased importance. On the Atlantic coast market-gardening, orcharding, and berry-picking give increasing prominence to transient rural service. In the wheat-growing regions of the Northwest this class of farm labor assumes the highest importance and dominates the labor situation, as shown in the swelling rates of wages in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Our methods of obtaining these averages are like those employed in various lines of crop-reporting. Our county boards of observation investigate and fix upon a county average, and these averages are consolidated in this office by applying the rate to the number of local laborers, and so making a true average. Each State agent consolidates the returns of his own correspondents in the same way. The two results are then compared and harmonized. Of course, as in census work, obvious errors of record, extravagances, and impossibilities are eliminated. The result is very consistent and in a high degree trustworthy and convincing.

WAGES BY GROUPS OF STATES.

The average rates by grand divisions of the country, representing "wages without board" per month, laborers boarding themselves, is thus stated for the nine investigations:

Sections.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Eastern States	\$26.46	\$26.64	\$26.03	\$25.30	\$26.55	\$21.36	\$29.00	\$32.03	\$33.31
Middle States	23.83	23.62	23.11	23.19	23.21	20.24	26.99	29.19	29.83
Southern States	14.86	14.77	14.54	14.27	14.67	12.65	15.28	16.49	16.63
Western States	22.61	22.01	22.23	22.27	23.26	19.81	23.25	26.39	27.84
Mountain States	32.16	31.94	33.37	30.24	36.50				27.23
Pacific States	36.15	34.87	36.73	37.78	37.22	40.11	43.50	46.38	44.60
Average	18.60	18.34	18.24	18.06	18.58	16.05	19.49	25.92	26.87

Wages are highest in the Pacific coast States. The Mountain States hold second place. East of the mountains the highest rates are in the Eastern States; in the Middle States about 10 per cent less, and in the Western States there is a further reduction of about 4 per cent. The Pacific coast prices represent the most profitable agriculture of any group of American States. The soil is very rich, with the disadvantage of local lack of moisture in its southern area, compensated in part at least by facilities for irrigation. But the climate makes the agriculture of California, giving it products that can not be grown so well, if at all, in other parts of the United States, and relieving it of competition with the great staples of other States. It is true that wheat is still grown there, first because a convenient pioneer crop needed by a growing population, and since by force of habit and for present utilization of lands soon to be required for more profitable uses. California furnishes the best American illustration of the benefit of diversification in agriculture and freedom from injurious competition and overproduction, employing agricultural labor in growing fruits and nuts, and producing wines and table oils and other products, which must ever be scarce and dear so long as they are obtainable only by the grace of foreign labor and the greed of importation. The laborers simply share with proprietors the profits of a highly remunerative agriculture. The agricultural labor of New England is dear because of its scarcity, caused by the great variety of manufacturing industries, which make a demand for every kind of available labor. The Middle States have less pressure upon the labor market, while enjoying a brisk demand, which places wages somewhat above the average. The West, while extensively agricultural, is largely and in constantly increasing measure employing labor in productive industries outside of agriculture. The predominating employment of the labor of the South in agriculture, far more than the fact that a considerable proportion of it is furnished by the colored race, is the cause of relatively low wages in that section. The tendency to advance is already observable, and will continue with accelerated rapidity as variety in agriculture progresses and resources for other lines of production are utilized.

The wages of farm labor, when board is furnished in addition to the money rate, are as follows:

Districts.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Eastern States	\$17.50	\$17.71	\$17.21	\$16.70	\$16.92	\$13.03	\$18.59	\$20.44	\$20.82
Middle States	15.78	15.61	15.41	15.24	14.71	12.37	16.98	18.37	19.01
Southern States	10.02	10.10	9.90	9.90	9.92	8.46	9.94	10.55	10.75
Western States	15.36	15.00	15.09	15.20	15.60	12.75	15.44	17.04	18.48
Mountain States	21.28	20.64	21.99	19.74	27.08	.....	.....	.....	17.61
Pacific States	24.25	22.50	25.08	24.37	23.73	25.88	28.13	28.69	29.48
Average	12.54	12.45	12.36	12.34	12.41	10.43	12.72	16.55	17.45

This table presents a narrower range of differences, as the high rates following the war gradually declined, than the other, in which was included the cost of board, which was proportionately high in those days of abnormal prices. The decline from 1866 to 1879 was least on the Pacific coast, amounting to only 12 per cent. In the South it was the same. There was a steady demand for the products of these regions, preventing more than a slight fall from the abnormal rates naturally produced by the excessive activity in production following the war period. It was different in the manufacturing sections. Production in all lines was exceedingly active up to 1873, when the monetary revulsion set in, constricting the circulation of money, inducing the hoarding of available means, paralyzing business and reducing consumption. The result was the shutting down of factory operations, throwing out of employment a large contingent of industrial laborers, who were forced to go back to the farms or engage in gardening or fruit production in competition with the regular forces of farm laborers. This reduced the wages, with board, 30 per cent in the Eastern States and 27 per cent in the Middle States, between 1875 and 1879. Gradually a portion of this unemployed labor forced its way westward and entered into competition with the agricultural labor of the West, reducing the average of that region from \$15.44 (with board), in 1875, to \$12.75 in 1879, or 17 per cent.

The difference between wages with and without board, at various dates in the several geographical divisions, affords an opportunity for interesting study. This difference stands practically for the cost of board, and represents variation in prices of products consumed and in the average rations of the several groups. Comparing these equivalents for board in 1892 and 1866 respectively, in a period of average wages and in one of abnormal elevation, the statement is as follows:

Sections.	1892.	1866.	Reduction.
Eastern States	\$8.96	\$12.49	<i>Per cent.</i> 28
Middle States	8.05	10.82	26
Southern States	4.84	5.88	18
Western States	7.25	9.36	23
Mountain States	10.88	9.62	[Inc.] 13
Pacific States	11.90	15.12	21

Two points are at once suggested by these figures—the higher cost of board in the earlier period, and the differences in cost then and now, in the several sections. Then wages were high, products correspondingly dear, and necessarily the cost of board was greater. Then the board allowance was greatest on the Pacific coast, as it is now. East of the mountains it is greatest in the New England States, which bring from the West a considerable proportion of the substantial of their dietary. The Middle States, with more home production and less dependence on the prairies, afford farm board at a somewhat cheaper rate. The West, with cheap food, makes a lower charge for board, but not quite in proportion to cheapness of products, the cost and inconvenience of domestic service being an important factor in the charge. The lower cost in the South is partially due to a practical elimination of domestic service, the laborer usually taking the materials and otherwise furnishing board and bed.

A glance at the above table of differences, showing reduction in board-cost, reveals one exception, an increase in the Rocky Mountain region. The cause is evident. This period of twenty-six years almost covers the sum total of mining development of that region, creating demand for labor, increasing the rate of wages, as well as the value of products. It is the sole exception, as it is the only region that has been settled and exploited within that time, except some of the areas of the lower plains, as in Kansas and Nebraska, which are almost exclusively agricultural, and therefore suffering competition of other grain-growing regions. The statement as to the Mountain States is as follows:

	1892.	1866.
Wages without board	\$32.16	\$27.23
Wages with board	21.28	17.61
Cost of board	10.88	9.62

This region stands next to the Pacific coast, above all sections eastward, in rank of wages rates, while in 1886 it stood slightly lower than the agricultural States of the West, and next to the rate for mixed labor of the South.

WAGES IN THE CENTRAL BELT.

Average conditions of agriculture and wages of farm labor are well illustrated in the record of the central belt of States on the parallel of 40 degrees. The statement of wages without board for nine investigations, covering the changes of a period of a quarter of a century, is as follows:

States.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Pennsylvania	\$23.00	\$22.80	\$22.24	\$22.52	\$22.88	\$19.92	\$25.89	\$28.68	\$29.91
Ohio	22.63	22.10	22.21	23.00	24.55	20.72	24.65	26.35	28.46
Indiana	22.75	22.25	22.50	22.20	23.14	20.20	24.20	25.42	27.71
Illinois	24.25	23.25	23.20	23.50	23.91	20.61	25.20	27.32	28.54
Iowa	26.20	25.41	25.60	25.33	26.21	22.09	24.35	28.39	28.34
Nebraska	25.75	25.50	25.59	25.00	24.45	23.04	24.00	33.25	38.37

In 1866, at the close of the war, agricultural effort was general and urgent, and labor comparatively scarce, and therefore dear. From Pennsylvania to Iowa the extreme range of difference was only \$2.20, from \$27.71 in Indiana to \$29.91 in Pennsylvania. Nebraska was exceptional, immigrants coming in so rapidly as to raise the price of products and labor, so much of both was required for the initial work of land-breaking and home-making. All sought to be farm proprietors, and few were willing to work for wages. As settlement progressed, and conditions became more uniform with other States, prices of labor declined, but not in proportion to reduction in value of products, as the hired labor of this State is still small in proportion to that of farm owners. Wages fell from \$38.37 in 1866, to \$33.25 in 1869, and to \$24 in 1875, when the average was less than any of the States named, which then presented figures more uniform than at any other date of the series.

It will be seen that the decline in rate of wages was general, from the period following the war to the monetary panic occurring in 1873, and that it continued in slight further reduction to 1879. A sharp reaction soon followed, the next investigation showing an average advance of 15 per cent. Five investigations have followed since, revealing a remarkably steady rate of wages through this central belt. Even the decline in prices of product did not reduce it, simply because of the preference of the laborer for cultivating his own acres, and the inducements which lumbering, general manufacturing, or mining presented for profitable occupation.

LOCAL VARIATION IN WAGES.

Not only are striking differences shown to exist in groups of States, and greater still in individual State averages, but in every State there is variation in its county rates, due to the same causes which operate to differentiate the wages of geographical sections. One of these causes is density of population, as in the neighborhood of cities, which results in high rents and dear food, and wages corresponding. In such vicinage, demand for skilled labor in gardening and fruit-growing, as well as in general farming, is stimulated by the necessity for large supplies and the relatively high range of prices which they command, producing a competition which raises wages. In a county or a portion of a State marked by high intelligence and general education of its people, farm wages are high, because more in demand for a greater variety of production, and the service is more effective and more valuable. In other counties, distant from market, with scant railway facilities, and especially with poor roads to railway stations, demand for labor is less, and the products of labor are less valuable. As a natural result, in such locality, there is less skill and ambition among workers, the more progressive will seek better conditions, and wages are consequently low because of less intrinsic value, of depreciation in quality.

In mining districts, any development which gives employment to

large numbers, as indicated in the local data of these investigations, causes labor competition and increased demand and price of products, raising the wages of farm labor. The establishment of any productive industry is followed by this economic result, as shown in these returns.

WHITE AND COLORED LABOR.

The relative wages of labor of the white and colored race, respectively, can not be precisely given, as no separate returns were made. Only an average of all wages, by the month and by the day, was sought. A very large proportion of those working for wages in agricultural operations in the Southern States may be assumed to be of the colored race, so that the wages of that section may, in a modified sense, stand for the rate for colored labor. The reader will hold this fact in view in the comparison presented.

Since the period of high wages in all sections the rate has been comparatively uniform, with somewhat less fluctuation in the Southern States. For ten years, at least, the average of these States for labor, without board, has kept very close to 60 per cent of the rate prevailing in the other sections, with a slight tendency to increase of the percentage. In 1879, the year of lowest rate, it was still 60 per cent of the average which practically represents exclusively white labor. Prior to that date, when wages were higher, there was less difference in the rates representing virtually white and colored labor. While the reduction was from \$16.63 in 1866 to \$12.65 in 1879, or 24 per cent in the one, it was from \$29.41 in 1866 to \$21.10 in 1879, or 28 per cent in the other. Comparing the rates of wages at the beginning and end, respectively, of this period of twenty-six years, the decline is 11 per cent for Southern wages and 20 per cent for the average of other sections. The difference is mainly made by the excessively high wages of the early period in the Northern States. The following statement presents these averages:

Years.	Southern States.		Other States.	
	Without board.	With board.	Without board.	With board.
1892.....	\$14.86	\$10.02	\$23.50	\$15.55
1890.....	14.77	10.10	23.01	15.52
1888.....	14.54	9.90	23.10	15.59
1885.....	14.27	9.90	23.07	15.55
1882.....	14.07	9.92	23.80	15.72
1879.....	12.65	8.46	20.35	12.91
1875.....	15.28	9.94	24.81	16.23
1869.....	16.49	10.55	28.29	18.06
1866.....	16.63	10.75	29.41	19.11

In this table are presented rates of wages per month both without and with board. While wages "without board" represent the entire cost of labor, wages "with board" only give the cost of service exclusive of the food and lodging of the laborer. As the "living" of the white laborer costs more than that of the colored, the difference is greater in the States representing almost exclusively white labor,

between wages with board and exclusive money rates. The average differences, for the past ten years, are \$7.75 and \$4.65, representing the cost of boarding or feeding the laborer. The lower cost in the latter average is not entirely in the simpler and less varied ration, but doubtless partially in the fact that the colored laborer usually cooks his own food, the material being furnished in bulk. So far as white labor is included in these returns from Southern States, it tends to diminish the difference given above, which would be greater still if the returns were exclusively of wages of colored labor. As it is, wages with board in the Southern States, as returned, are almost exactly two-thirds as much as the average of the other States, while wages "without board" are only four-tenths as much as for exclusively white labor.

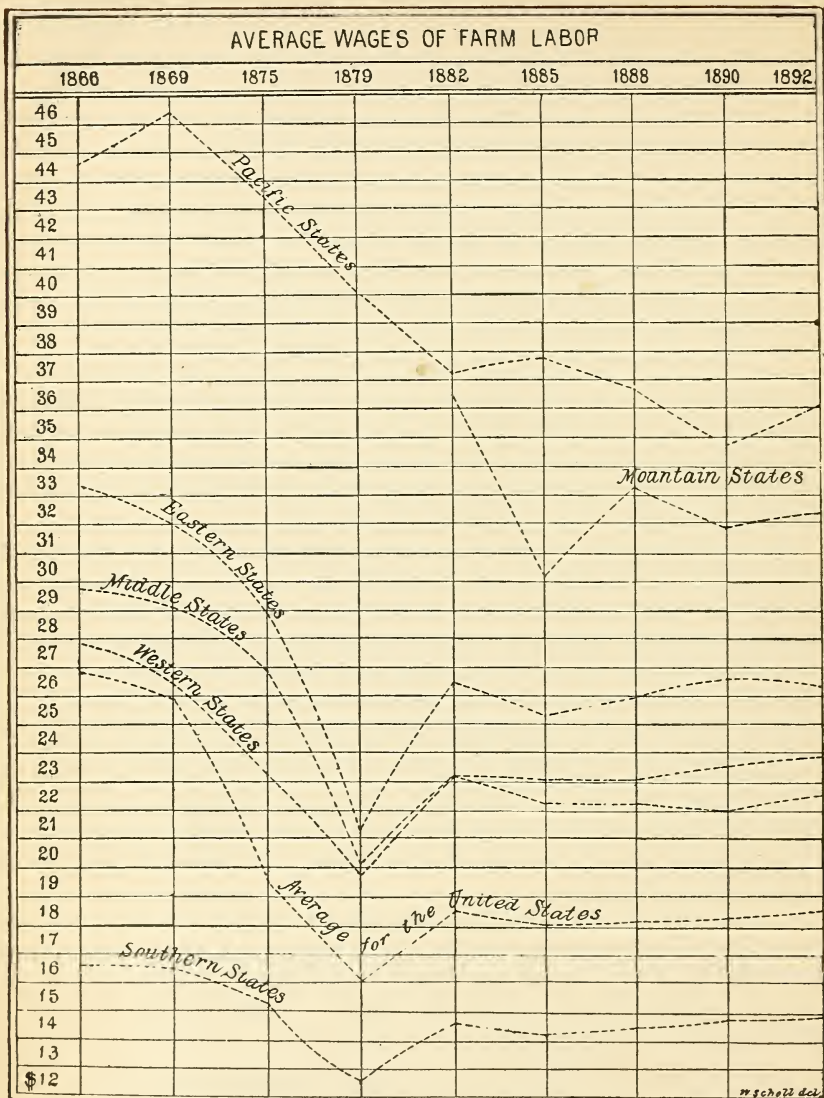
It is a noteworthy fact that while the value of cotton has declined nearly 80 per cent in twenty-six years, the wages of labor in the cotton region has declined only 11 per cent, showing that cotton is no longer a dominating influence in the labor of the South, and suggesting the activities in agricultural and manufacturing lines which are destined to fructify and enrich that interesting portion of the country.

An objection may be made to these rates of wages, for the South, that contracts for service are generally on the share system, and not payable in money. This is true of a large proportion of the labor employed, yet these rates are current everywhere and paid to a certain proportion of the laborers, and they vary locally with the pressure of demand; while reasonably steady, the tendency is to advance, being slightly higher at the beginning of the present year than in 1890, notwithstanding the low price of cotton. Yet, in cotton-picking, the transient harvest service of that region, there has been a reduction. Our Arkansas State agent reports that in his State the prevailing rates of 65 to 80 cents per 100 pounds of seed cotton were reduced last autumn to from 50 to 60 cents.

A separation of the labor of white and colored can not be made with close precision from these returns, yet it will be nearly approximate to say that the average wages of whites are now about \$23.75 per month, or \$16 with board, and that the wages of colored laborers average \$14.25, or \$9.75 with board.

FARMERS AND FARM WAGES.

While farmers have suffered from low prices of certain products, they have been unable to reduce the rates of wages. It might be supposed that the depression in agriculture, of which so much has been said and written, would be attended with a decline in the rate of compensation paid for labor. This has not taken place. The demand is well sustained. Wages have not declined. Many a farmer complains that labor costs too much, that values of products do not warrant the rates demanded, and yet he must have it and promptly makes the engagement. It is the compulsion of competition, an indication of general employment and a fair degree of prosperity.



The returns give a true explanation of the apparent anomaly of low prices and high wages. There is a difference in employers. Some are progressive, increase the fertility of their lands, use the best methods and implements, employ labor, pay good wages and make money. Others are less enterprising, diligent, or progressive, and make small net profit or none at all. As margins of profit grow narrow, skill is at a premium, wastes are ruinous, the skillful succeed, the careless go to the wall. The returns are full of indications that the present is a crucial test of the individual farmer. They teach the necessity of progress in agriculture, and especially a facility for prompt adaptation of current effort to changing conditions.

THE COURSE OF FARM WAGES.

A careful analysis of all the data collected concerning farm wages from 1840 to 1865, in comparison with results of the more recent investigations, will show that in fifty years the compensation of farm labor has very nearly doubled.

The quotations which appear in subsequent pages, largely from private records, are doubtless accurate. They evidently include many grades of efficiency, though more frequently relate to superior efficiency, to the better class of laborers, and therefore can not be taken as an average. Nor should those of the Eastern States, where early development of a wide range of industries made farm labor abnormally high, be credited with too large an influence on the general average. Including all grades of service and degrees of efficiency, it would be fair to make the general average for labor of white men about \$8.50 per month with board and \$12.50 without board. It is now about \$15.85 with board and \$23.50 without board.

Mr. Mathew Carey, the economist, estimated the rate of wages over fifty years ago, from his standpoint of observation in the Atlantic slope, at \$9 and board, which was doubtless approximately correct for the region in which manufacturers had already begun to advance wages, but if the more agricultural and western districts are included and all grades of labor are fairly represented \$8.50 would be a very close and reasonably accurate average.

Wages advanced slowly as population increased, manufacturing gradually extended, and mining was initiated, and in 1860 a range of \$10 to \$15 was common in the East, with an average approximating \$12, while in exclusively agricultural districts it was \$9 to \$10. The general average may be stated approximately at \$11. A rapid rise followed when three million soldiers of two armies were withdrawn from constructive and commercial industries to the fields of war. This brings us to the beginning of thorough and general investigation, the results of which appear in these pages.

In comparison with other countries American farm labor stands first in rate of compensation. The present rate of \$282 per annum for labor

of the Caucasian race can scarcely be approached by any country, unless by Australia. An average of other countries can not be authoritatively stated, but current estimates have been frequently quoted about as follows: Great Britain, \$150; France, \$125; Holland, \$100; Germany, \$90; Russia, \$60; Italy, \$50; India, \$30. The present rate can only be maintained by keeping up the fertility of the soil, utilizing the best results of invention and skill in implements and machinery, advancing the status of practical agriculture, supplying all domestic demands for all required products, and seeking foreign markets for the surplus.

WAGES PER MONTH BY THE YEAR OR SEASON.

Wages without board.

States and Territories.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Maine	\$24.50	\$25.00	\$24.64	\$23.09	\$24.75	\$18.25	\$25.40	\$26.25	\$27.00
New Hampshire.....	25.00	25.15	24.38	22.80	25.25	19.75	28.57	32.66	32.74
Vermont.....	24.67	24.80	23.25	23.00	23.37	19.00	29.67	32.40	32.84
Massachusetts.....	29.70	30.00	29.50	28.75	30.66	25.00	31.87	35.95	38.94
Rhode Island.....	29.00	29.20	27.75	28.50	27.75	23.00	30.00	32.25	34.40
Connecticut.....	27.38	27.00	27.40	27.67	27.90	23.29	28.25	33.00	34.25
New York.....	24.55	24.45	24.13	24.00	23.63	20.61	27.14	29.28	29.57
New Jersey.....	25.50	25.10	23.33	23.60	24.25	20.22	30.71	32.11	32.27
Pennsylvania.....	23.00	22.80	22.24	22.52	22.88	19.92	25.89	28.68	29.91
Delaware.....	18.75	17.35	18.00	18.33	18.20	17.00	20.33	22.00	24.93
Maryland.....	17.50	17.67	18.48	18.20	16.34	14.00	20.02	21.55	20.36
Virginia.....	15.50	14.21	18.32	13.95	13.90	11.00	14.84	15.28	14.82
North Carolina.....	13.30	12.83	13.41	12.85	12.86	11.19	13.46	12.76	13.46
South Carolina.....	12.50	12.10	12.25	12.00	12.10	10.25	12.84	11.54	12.00
Florida.....	13.50	13.13	12.60	12.47	12.86	10.73	14.40	14.70	15.51
Alabama.....	18.67	19.35	18.00	17.80	16.64	13.80	15.50	16.10	18.00
Mississippi.....	13.75	14.00	13.50	13.00	13.15	13.20	13.60	15.19	13.40
Louisiana.....	15.40	15.38	15.03	14.60	15.10	13.31	16.40	17.11	16.72
Texas.....	16.25	15.98	15.37	16.05	18.20	16.40	18.40	21.37	20.50
Arkansas.....	18.75	19.85	19.20	18.87	20.20	18.27	19.50	18.83	19.00
Tennessee.....	17.30	18.40	18.34	17.33	18.50	17.12	20.50	25.25	24.21
West Virginia.....	14.50	14.23	14.00	13.88	13.75	12.73	15.20	16.81	19.00
Kentucky.....	19.50	19.55	18.74	19.00	19.16	16.98	20.75	21.59	25.35
Ohio.....	17.50	16.85	16.51	16.80	18.20	15.17	18.12	18.84	20.23
Michigan.....	22.63	22.10	22.21	23.00	24.55	20.72	24.05	26.35	28.46
Indiana.....	24.00	24.80	25.20	24.00	25.76	22.88	28.22	31.01	31.26
Illinois.....	22.75	22.25	22.50	22.20	23.14	20.20	24.20	25.42	27.71
Wisconsin.....	24.25	23.25	23.20	23.50	23.91	20.61	25.20	27.32	28.54
Minnesota.....	25.25	24.35	24.65	23.54	26.21	21.07	25.50	30.08	30.84
Iowa.....	26.00	24.60	25.75	25.50	26.36	24.55	26.16	28.61	31.65
Missouri.....	26.20	25.41	25.60	25.33	26.21	22.09	24.35	28.39	28.34
Kansas.....	20.50	20.25	21.00	21.35	22.39	17.59	19.40	24.47	26.75
Nebraska.....	24.20	22.75	24.25	24.70	23.85	20.67	23.20	28.96	31.03
South Dakota.....	25.75	25.50	25.59	25.00	24.45	23.04	24.00	33.25	38.37
North Dakota.....	27.00	24.75	25.85	25.55	.....	28.56	32.50	.....	30.20
Montana.....	30.00								
Wyoming.....	35.00	36.50	40.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Colorado.....	34.00	34.00	37.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Mexico.....	33.00	33.75	36.00	33.00	36.50	35.00	38.50	.....	67.50
Arizona.....	27.67	27.50	28.75	28.75	.....	22.10	22.75	.....	25.00
Utah.....	33.00	33.00	25.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nevada.....	33.50	32.30	33.50	30.00	.....	28.87	35.50	.....	44.71
Idaho.....	36.00	35.00	38.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washington.....	35.50	36.25	39.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oregon.....	37.50	37.00	35.20	38.33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
California.....	34.25	31.60	32.56	34.00	33.50	35.45	38.25	.....	35.75
Average.....	36.50	35.50	36.08	38.75	38.25	41.00	44.50	46.38	45.71
Average.....	18.60	18.33	18.24	17.97	18.94	16.42	19.87	25.92	26.87

Wages with board.

States and Territories.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Maine	\$17. 00	\$17. 50	\$17. 20	\$16. 00	\$16. 15	\$11. 08	\$15. 94	\$16. 50	\$17. 44
New Hampshire	17. 50	17. 60	17. 00	15. 75	16. 72	12. 30	18. 25	22. 16	22. 48
Vermont	17. 45	17. 35	16. 40	16. 20	16. 00	11. 50	19. 37	21. 40	21. 00
Massachusetts	18. 00	18. 50	18. 00	17. 85	18. 25	15. 33	20. 25	22. 16	22. 36
Rhode Island	17. 75	18. 00	17. 50	17. 70	17. 00	14. 23	18. 50	20. 75	20. 50
Connecticut	17. 50	17. 33	17. 17	17. 20	17. 37	13. 25	19. 00	20. 00	21. 54
New York	16. 50	16. 65	16. 30	16. 52	15. 36	13. 19	17. 80	18. 64	19. 32
New Jersey	16. 75	16. 00	15. 73	14. 10	14. 20	11. 53	16. 78	19. 02	18. 98
Pennsylvania	15. 00	14. 60	14. 50	14. 12	14. 21	11. 46	16. 10	18. 05	18. 84
Delaware	12. 00	11. 15	12. 25	12. 63	12. 50	9. 50	11. 67	13. 00	13. 25
Maryland	11. 33	11. 25	11. 84	11. 50	9. 89	8. 95	11. 42	12. 00	12. 76
Virginia	9. 67	9. 47	9. 25	9. 34	9. 17	7. 66	9. 21	9. 65	9. 36
North Carolina	8. 78	8. 80	9. 00	8. 91	8. 80	7. 66	8. 82	7. 91	8. 15
South Carolina	8. 40	8. 62	8. 00	8. 25	8. 10	6. 66	8. 19	7. 34	7. 66
Georgia	9. 00	8. 37	8. 81	8. 73	8. 70	7. 38	8. 79	9. 70	9. 67
Florida	12. 27	12. 59	11. 33	11. 37	10. 20	8. 73	10. 75	10. 91	12. 12
Alabama	9. 17	9. 85	9. 49	9. 10	9. 09	8. 30	9. 40	10. 52	9. 80
Mississippi	10. 46	10. 50	10. 09	10. 00	10. 09	9. 28	11. 25	11. 21	11. 58
Louisiana	11. 83	11. 79	11. 12	11. 26	12. 69	11. 27	12. 20	12. 62	12. 42
Texas	13. 00	13. 30	12. 60	13. 72	14. 03	11. 49	13. 37	13. 21	12. 72
Arkansas	11. 50	12. 55	12. 50	12. 25	12. 25	11. 31	13. 00	16. 60	15. 80
Tennessee	10. 20	10. 12	10. 00	9. 74	9. 49	8. 69	10. 00	11. 00	12. 58
West Virginia	12. 75	12. 95	12. 25	12. 40	12. 46	10. 94	13. 10	13. 87	16. 47
Kentucky	12. 40	11. 70	11. 33	11. 69	11. 75	10. 00	12. 00	12. 57	13. 65
Ohio	15. 60	15. 10	15. 00	15. 50	16. 30	13. 34	16. 33	16. 74	18. 96
Michigan	16. 00	16. 75	17. 00	16. 14	17. 27	14. 64	18. 46	20. 03	20. 48
Indiana	15. 00	14. 78	15. 30	15. 30	15. 65	12. 76	16. 14	17. 03	18. 72
Illinois	16. 50	16. 35	16. 00	16. 60	17. 14	13. 01	16. 87	17. 69	18. 72
Wisconsin	17. 00	16. 75	16. 80	16. 78	17. 90	13. 81	16. 45	18. 47	19. 87
Minnesota	17. 60	16. 60	17. 68	16. 75	17. 75	15. 62	16. 36	17. 94	21. 10
Iowa	17. 75	17. 00	17. 34	17. 00	17. 95	13. 90	16. 11	17. 87	18. 87
Missouri	14. 20	14. 00	14. 20	14. 50	13. 95	11. 84	13. 15	16. 38	18. 08
Kansas	16. 20	15. 05	16. 05	16. 00	15. 87	13. 28	14. 65	18. 38	19. 81
Nebraska	16. 80	16. 60	17. 18	16. 50	16. 20	14. 86	14. 75	19. 18	24. 64
South Dakota	18. 25	{	17. 10	18. 21	17. 60	16. 57	20. 50	.....	20. 00
North Dakota	21. 00								
Montana	23. 50	23. 80	27. 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wyoming	23. 00	23. 00	25. 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Colorado	22. 00	21. 00	23. 00	21. 25	27. 08	20. 00	21. 14	.....	42. 12
New Mexico	17. 85	17. 83	18. 25	17. 50	.....	13. 80	14. 25	.....	16. 50
Arizona	22. 00	21. 50	16. 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Utah	22. 30	21. 00	22. 30	21. 00	.....	20. 50	25. 33	.....	26. 32
Nevada	24. 00	23. 00	27. 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Idaho	23. 50	23. 50	26. 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washington	25. 00	24. 40	25. 00	26. 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oregon	23. 00	22. 00	23. 00	21. 25	24. 75	23. 86	25. 67	.....	22. 53
California	24. 50	22. 40	25. 67	25. 00	23. 45	26. 27	28. 60	28. 69	30. 35
Average	12. 54	12. 45	12. 36	12. 34	12. 41	10. 43	12. 72	16. 55	17. 45

These are the results of nine investigations, at different dates, from 1866 to 1892. They are made by our county correspondents, and also during the past ten years by the correspondents of our State agents, the two results revised and harmonized in this office. While changes occur from one date of investigation to another, they are in accord with controlling conditions and circumstances, and are very slight in recent years, in which the causes of change are only mildly operative. Where changes occur the causes are usually apparent.

DAY WAGES IN HARVEST.

Wages without board.

States and Territories.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Maine	\$1.72	\$1.70	\$1.65	\$1.58	\$1.52	\$1.42	\$1.99	\$2.17	\$2.02
New Hampshire	1.68	1.72	1.67	1.65	1.71	1.25	2.06	2.37	1.98
Vermont	1.70	1.68	1.65	1.68	1.75	1.29	2.28	2.46	2.32
Massachusetts	1.75	1.80	1.80	1.70	1.75	1.50	1.90	2.37	2.41
Rhode Island	1.72	1.75	1.75	1.60	1.60	1.30	2.00	2.37	2.23
Connecticut	1.75	1.70	1.70	1.65	1.65	1.60	2.06	2.40	2.43
New York	1.80	1.80	1.80	2.00	1.89	1.53	2.25	2.53	2.41
New Jersey	1.82	1.85	1.88	2.04	2.09	1.55	2.56	2.63	2.68
Pennsylvania	1.57	1.55	1.51	1.65	1.73	1.33	2.01	2.23	2.32
Delaware	1.15	1.20	1.40	1.88	1.60	1.37	1.83	1.87	2.09
Maryland	1.34	1.32	1.46	1.74	1.52	1.43	1.81	2.16	2.00
Virginia	1.28	1.26	1.30	1.33	1.27	1.16	1.48	1.48	1.46
North Carolina	1.04	1.00	.96	1.15	1.20	.99	1.17	1.37	1.53
South Carolina .....	.94	.93	.95	.87	1.08	.89	1.17	1.15	1.25
Georgia .....	.96	1.02	.99	1.04	1.10	.98	1.49	1.24	1.48
Florida	1.06	1.04	1.04	.90	1.12	1.02	1.00	1.25	1.12
Alabama .....	.98	1.02	.97	.99	1.05	.96	1.40	1.24	1.27
Mississippi	1.00	1.00	.97	1.00	1.23	1.00	1.40	1.56	1.65
Louisiana	1.05	1.03	.92	.95	1.10	1.03	1.30	1.54	1.66
Texas	1.10	1.20	1.23	1.32	1.39	1.30	1.52	1.58	1.65
Arkansas	1.05	1.25	1.30	1.30	1.34	1.38	1.50	1.67	2.07
Tennessee	1.18	1.15	1.20	1.28	1.30	1.28	1.62	2.10	2.01
West Virginia	1.25	1.30	1.20	1.31	1.30	1.26	1.55	1.78	1.78
Kentucky	1.50	1.47	1.35	1.51	1.54	1.49	1.79	1.83	2.10
Ohio	1.55	1.50	1.56	1.75	1.79	1.51	2.05	2.15	2.20
Michigan	1.80	1.79	1.80	1.90	2.13	2.02	2.50	2.76	2.62
Indiana	1.58	1.55	1.64	1.85	1.89	1.68	2.20	2.16	2.23
Illinois	1.62	1.58	1.60	1.80	1.91	1.52	2.20	2.34	2.41
Wisconsin	1.75	1.64	1.80	1.89	2.50	2.11	2.40	2.45	2.68
Minnesota	2.15	1.95	2.20	2.29	2.61	2.63	2.82	2.90	2.68
Iowa	1.75	1.71	1.81	2.00	2.25	1.66	2.37	2.85	2.38
Missouri	1.40	1.35	1.43	1.62	1.59	1.47	1.75	2.30	2.15
Kansas	1.62	1.44	1.60	1.87	1.70	1.70	1.86	2.08	2.31
Nebraska	1.60	1.65	1.80	1.98	1.95	2.17	2.40	2.41	2.65
South Dakota	2.10	2.00	2.12	1.38	2.65	.....	2.37	.....	2.50
North Dakota	2.25								
Montana	2.10	2.00	2.20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wyoming	2.00	1.75	2.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Colorado	1.80	1.65	1.87	2.05	2.21	2.08	2.33	.....	4.17
New Mexico	1.35	1.25	1.31	1.31	1.65	1.00	1.35	.....	1.50
Arizona	1.75	1.75	1.70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Utah	1.80	1.70	1.72	1.75	2.00	1.82	2.20	.....	3.42
Nevada	2.05	2.00	1.80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Idaho	2.00	2.00	2.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washington	2.20	2.10	2.10	2.05	.....	2.15	2.40	.....	3.00
Oregon	2.00	1.90	1.94	1.95	1.92	2.02	2.11	.....	2.40
California	2.25	2.10	2.25	2.20	2.30	2.27	2.50	2.82	2.56
Average	1.30	1.30	1.31	1.40	1.48	1.30	1.70	2.20	2.20

This table records the average wages paid per day for transient service in harvest. The difference between the early and recent averages is much greater in harvest wages than in the monthly wages by the year. The decline to present level was not reached until after 1885, whereas in the case of yearly wages it was reached about ten years earlier. The average decline in harvest wages from 1866 to 1892 was 41 per cent, while in monthly wages it was 31 per cent.

Wages with board.

States and Territories.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Maine	\$1.32	\$1.35	\$1.30	\$1.19	\$1.22	\$1.09	\$1.49	\$1.65	\$1.56
New Hampshire	1.29	1.38	1.37	1.32	1.35	.96	1.64	1.95	1.52
Vermont	1.33	1.37	1.35	1.30	1.35	.97	1.85	2.00	1.85
Massachusetts	1.30	1.38	1.38	1.31	1.35	1.00	1.50	1.95	1.92
Rhode Island	1.28	1.35	1.35	1.25	1.30	.95	1.50	1.75	1.71
Connecticut	1.38	1.38	1.40	1.33	1.33	1.25	1.53	1.90	1.90
New York	1.40	1.38	1.37	1.54	1.47	1.18	1.75	1.99	1.92
New Jersey	1.42	1.46	1.50	1.65	1.74	1.30	2.03	2.09	2.38
Pennsylvania	1.20	1.18	1.13	1.20	1.30	.99	1.51	1.73	1.80
Delaware .....	.85	.95	1.10	1.52	1.25	1.00	1.41	1.50	1.62
Maryland	1.04	1.00	1.15	1.38	1.15	1.12	1.34	1.67	1.68
Virginia	1.02	1.00	1.10	1.06	.99	.96	1.21	1.13	1.21
North Carolina .....	.82	.80	.75	.82	.85	.76	1.00	1.04	1.17
South Carolina .....	.75	.78	.72	.64	.78	.68	1.01	.90	.93
Georgia .....	.76	.81	.77	.80	.80	.61	.99	.90	1.06
Florida .....	.85	.80	.78	.70	.80	.73	.72	.87	.83
Alabama .....	.76	.75	.72	.76	.80	.77	1.15	.95	1.04
Mississippi .....	.70	.75	.73	.79	.95	.85	1.00	1.27	1.14
Louisiana .....	.82	.81	.72	.75	.85	.77	1.05	1.13	1.20
Texas .....	.90	.93	.96	1.04	1.08	.94	1.20	1.26	1.32
Arkansas .....	.84	.93	.97	1.03	1.02	1.08	1.25	1.40	1.52
Tennessee .....	.93	.91	.93	1.04	1.00	.98	1.20	1.59	1.54
West Virginia	1.00	1.00	.92	1.03	1.00	.95	1.20	1.29	1.31
Kentucky	1.10	1.15	1.07	1.17	1.18	1.15	1.46	1.38	1.70
Ohio	1.24	1.20	1.23	1.40	1.41	1.17	1.60	1.72	1.73
Michigan	1.40	1.39	1.40	1.57	1.76	1.55	2.00	2.25	2.14
Indiana	1.28	1.25	1.32	1.55	1.58	1.28	1.75	1.77	1.76
Illinois	1.30	1.27	1.25	1.40	1.54	1.18	1.83	1.94	1.91
Wisconsin	1.38	1.30	1.44	1.57	2.10	1.70	1.92	1.96	2.15
Minnesota	1.70	1.51	1.75	1.89	2.16	2.25	2.30	2.36	2.27
Iowa	1.40	1.50	1.46	1.61	1.81	1.57	2.10	2.24	1.88
Missouri	1.05	1.10	1.13	1.30	1.23	1.17	1.43	1.84	1.72
Kansas	1.28	1.13	1.25	1.48	1.35	1.32	1.46	1.63	1.82
Nebraska	1.27	1.27	1.42	1.55	1.57	1.66	1.98	2.00	2.15
South Dakota	1.60	} 1.52	1.64	1.00	2.19	-----	1.90	-----	2.00
North Dakota	1.70		1.50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Montana	1.65	1.50	1.50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Wyoming	1.55	1.30	1.30	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Colorado	1.37	1.21	1.35	1.50	1.80	1.55	1.50	-----	2.87
New Mexico	1.05	.95	1.00	.88	1.40	.67	.90	-----	1.12
Arizona	1.25	1.25	1.20	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Utah	1.43	1.27	1.30	1.36	1.56	1.43	1.75	-----	2.49
Nevada	1.63	1.70	1.37	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Idaho	1.55	1.50	1.52	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Washington	1.67	1.67	1.60	1.50	-----	1.61	2.00	-----	2.25
Oregon	1.55	1.45	1.45	1.50	1.50	1.54	1.72	-----	1.80
California	1.70	1.75	1.85	1.80	1.86	1.76	2.00	2.04	2.06
Average	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.10	1.15	1.00	1.35	1.74	1.74

The difference between the rates with and without board is less in harvest wages than in wages by the year. The exigency is pressing and the inconvenience of boarding is less considered. The present rate with board is less than the rate without board by 22 per cent, but in the record of monthly wages it is 33 per cent.

DAY WAGES FOR ORDINARY FARM LABOR.

Wages without board.

States and Territories.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Maine	\$1.28	\$1.30	\$1.25	\$1.19	\$1.18	\$0.97	\$1.46	\$1.48	\$1.19
New Hampshire	1.28	1.35	1.27	1.30	1.30	.98	1.50	1.79	1.67
Vermont	1.23	1.19	1.16	1.15	1.20	.91	1.51	1.76	1.76
Massachusetts	1.42	1.45	1.42	1.50	1.45	1.05	1.44	1.92	1.83
Rhode Island	1.42	1.45	1.42	1.25	1.28	1.00	1.62	1.73	1.83
Connecticut	1.38	1.37	1.33	1.32	1.30	1.50	1.50	1.87	1.75
New York	1.22	1.23	1.21	1.26	1.29	.92	1.48	1.64	1.75
New Jersey	1.24	1.25	1.20	1.17	1.21	.99	1.45	1.63	1.68
Pennsylvania	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	1.20	.96	1.37	1.43	1.59
Delaware .....	.80	.85	.95	1.00	1.10	.75	1.04	1.30	1.31
Maryland .....	.85	.87	.90	.93	.83	.75	1.06	1.20	1.31
Virginia .....	.72	.75	.73	.71	.70	.63	.78	.80	.82
North Carolina .....	.63	.62	.61	.67	.68	.58	.72	.74	.72
South Carolina .....	.62	.63	.65	.60	.65	.53	.71	.70	.69
Georgia .....	.72	.73	.75	.66	.70	.58	.83	.83	.99
Florida .....	.96	.92	.95	.85	.75	.76	.93	.96	1.00
Alabama .....	.72	.74	.72	.73	.72	.69	.75	.86	.78
Mississippi .....	.80	.79	.75	.80	.75	.78	1.07	1.10	1.34
Louisiana .....	.87	.88	.85	.82	.80	.85	1.00	1.44	1.08
Texas .....	.98	.97	.95	.98	.93	.92	1.14	1.16	1.31
Arkansas .....	.87	.93	.93	.89	.88	.86	1.10	1.36	1.34
Tennessee .....	.71	.71	.74	.71	.72	.69	.95	1.05	1.15
West Virginia .....	.90	.90	.85	.83	.82	.80	1.05	1.14	1.31
Kentucky .....	.85	.88	.82	.84	.87	.77	1.03	1.10	1.21
Ohio	1.10	1.05	1.07	1.11	1.19	1.00	1.35	1.44	1.54
Michigan	1.20	1.19	1.20	1.28	1.30	1.16	1.55	1.66	1.78
Indiana	1.06	1.05	1.10	1.08	1.08	.90	1.30	1.36	1.45
Illinois	1.14	1.13	1.12	1.14	1.19	1.01	1.37	1.50	1.62
Wisconsin	1.30	1.26	1.22	1.20	1.33	1.12	1.42	1.56	1.78
Minnesota	1.40	1.28	1.30	1.25	1.37	1.27	1.50	1.64	1.75
Iowa	1.25	1.23	1.27	1.31	1.34	1.12	1.38	1.52	1.62
Missouri .....	.93	.91	.94	.95	1.00	.67	1.07	1.44	1.44
Kansas	1.15	1.10	1.17	1.20	1.12	1.05	1.30	1.56	1.65
Nebraska	1.26	1.28	1.37	1.35	1.21	1.29	1.43	1.62	1.93
South Dakota	1.45	1.40	1.35	1.31	1.50	1.34	1.62	.....	2.00
North Dakota	1.60								
Montana	1.65	1.65	1.70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wyoming	1.55	1.45	1.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Colorado	1.50	1.43	1.60	1.55	1.63	1.83	1.75	.....	3.29
New Mexico	1.25	1.35	1.35	1.25	1.28	.81	.85	.....	1.00
Arizona	1.50	1.58	1.25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Utah	1.40	1.38	1.42	1.52	1.57	1.46	1.80	.....	2.27
Nevada	1.60	1.63	1.65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.00
Idaho	1.60	1.63	1.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washington	1.70	1.60	1.45	1.70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oregon	1.55	1.38	1.35	1.30	1.33	1.44	1.47	.....	1.75
California	1.60	1.55	1.60	1.57	1.71	1.65	1.84	2.13	2.26
Average .....	.92	.92	.92	.91	.93	.81	1.08	1.41	1.49

In this table is given the average rate of wages paid for ordinary transient service, which in 1892 is 29 per cent less than average harvest wages.

Wages with board.

States and Territories.	1892.	1890.	1888.	1885.	1882.	1879.	1875.	1869.	1866.
Maine	\$0.96	\$0.98	\$0.92	\$0.88	\$0.91	\$0.72	\$1.05	\$1.05	\$1.13
New Hampshire .....	.96	1.00	.95	.95	.97	.74	1.12	1.41	1.26
Vermont .....	.94	.92	.90	.88	.90	.64	1.11	1.28	1.32
Massachusetts .....	.98	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.08	.75	1.12	1.37	1.38
Rhode Island .....	.98	1.02	1.02	.94	1.00	.50	1.18	1.18	1.33
Connecticut .....	.97	1.00	1.00	1.00	.98	.88	1.16	1.37	1.29
New York .....	.90	.90	.90	.93	.93	.68	1.06	1.19	1.23
New Jersey .....	.92	.92	.87	.83	.86	.68	1.00	1.15	1.20
Pennsylvania .....	.81	.81	.82	.80	.85	.63	.95	1.04	1.10
Delaware .....	.60	.63	.70	.78	.80	.50	.70	.95	.94
Maryland .....	.61	.61	.64	.62	.55	.48	.71	.77	.96
Virginia .....	.50	.52	.51	.49	.48	.44	.51	.55	.57
North Carolina .....	.45	.46	.45	.47	.46	.41	.51	.49	.50
South Carolina .....	.45	.45	.43	.45	.45	.41	.55	.50	.45
Georgia .....	.52	.50	.50	.47	.49	.44	.60	.60	.70
Florida .....	.72	.68	.70	.60	.55	.53	.70	.72	.74
Alabama .....	.52	.55	.53	.52	.51	.50	.53	.61	.55
Mississippi .....	.56	.60	.55	.60	.55	.55	.80	.90	.89
Louisiana .....	.65	.67	.65	.64	.60	.62	.74	.83	.70
Texas .....	.72	.73	.71	.76	.70	.66	.84	.84	.98
Arkansas .....	.60	.65	.65	.64	.62	.60	.80	1.02	.88
Tennessee .....	.53	.53	.53	.52	.50	.50	.60	.68	.83
West Virginia .....	.63	.68	.62	.60	.59	.55	.75	.79	.92
Kentucky .....	.62	.67	.60	.59	.60	.53	.72	.77	.86
Ohio .....	.85	.83	.82	.85	.89	.83	1.00	1.05	1.13
Michigan .....	.88	.88	.90	.92	.96	.82	1.10	1.17	1.30
Indiana .....	.76	.78	.82	.80	.78	.69	.95	1.01	1.06
Illinois .....	.88	.86	.84	.87	.90	.73	1.01	1.13	1.21
Wisconsin .....	.88	.87	.97	.95	.99	.79	1.00	1.15	1.28
Minnesota	1.00	.98	1.00	.99	1.02	.94	1.07	1.18	1.35
Iowa .....	.98	.95	.97	.97	.99	.80	1.01	1.13	1.19
Missouri .....	.76	.75	.80	.68	.70	.59	.73	1.02	1.07
Kansas .....	.83	.78	.85	.87	.80	.72	.90	1.12	1.19
Nebraska .....	.96	.94	1.00	.97	.91	.90	1.00	1.26	1.45
South Dakota	1.06	} 1.04	1.10	1.08	1.11	.92	1.08	.....	1.50
North Dakota	1.20								
Montana	1.35	1.45	1.25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wyoming	1.25	1.12	1.10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Colorado	1.10	1.05	1.12	1.10	1.14	1.19	1.16	.....	1.93
New Mexico .....	.87	1.00	1.00	.81	1.00	.56	.50	.....	.90
Arizona	1.15	1.20	.90	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Utah	1.08	1.05	1.10	1.14	1.10	1.12	1.40	.....	1.63
Nevada	1.17	1.18	1.20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.50
Idaho	1.18	1.45	1.15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washington	1.38	1.27	1.15	1.17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oregon	1.05	1.03	.98	.95	1.00	1.08	1.15	.....	1.40
California	1.17	1.15	1.18	1.15	1.29	1.23	1.30	1.50	1.72
Average .....	.67	.68	.67	.67	.67	.59	.78	1.02	1.08

ABUNDANCE OR SCARCITY OF LABOR.

In most of the reports from New England there is complaint of a scarcity of farm labor. As is quite frequently the case, laborers prefer the cities, with work at higher wages, if with higher expenses also, in shops, mills, factories, and other occupations; while in some districts, and in the proper seasons, lumbering, the ice business, and shipbuilding attract many from farm work. In some instances, where laborers are insufficient in number, the dependence is upon foreigners, notably from the Canadian provinces, and the service is characterized as lacking in intelligent efficiency.

In New York there appears to be less scarcity of farm labor, the reports standing as four for insufficient supply to three for sufficient. The tendency to seek employment of a lighter or more remunerative character in the cities, in trades, manufactures, especially large works at various points, and upon railroads, withdraws labor from the farm,

though not to the marked extent noticed of New England, nor perhaps to that in the same State noted two years since. The regions where farm labor, of whatever character, is noted as generally sufficiently abundant, are mainly among the northern and western and a few other counties. Proximity to the large cities and extensive manufacturing works draws labor away from the farms, and unfortunately for the agricultural industry it loses the most enterprising and intelligent.

In New Jersey, with little exception, the supply of farm labor is deficient, and in the few instances of plenty or abundance the supply is obtained from Castle Garden and the employment agencies of New York, and is usually foreign and lacks adaptation or intelligence. Many laborers so secured are Italian. Native laborers prefer the manufacturing enterprises, and "the incompetent help discharged by these very largely constitutes the farm help" of native origin, in some localities, it is reported.

In Pennsylvania in over two-thirds of the counties reported there is a deficiency of farm labor, which does not, however, indicate great scarcity generally. Railroads, mines, manufactories, lumbering and milling, oil production, and the tendency in the usual degree to seek city employments, decrease the chances for securing intelligent or even a lower class of farm laborers at prices which can be afforded. But nearly a third of the counties report sufficient or abundant labor, in some instances because of remoteness from cities; in others, because other industries competing for labor have decreased; and in others because of satisfactory wages. There is a variation in the last indicated regions along railroads and near manufacturing centers, which is felt by the demand for labor.

A deficiency is indicated by the reports for Delaware and Maryland of a more or less continuous character as to time, and of severity as to degree, extending well over their area. The tendency to the cities, the demands of the railroads, oyster and other fishing, fruit canning, and the renting of land and low prices of farm labor are responsible for the deficiency. In a few counties labor is sufficient or abundant, but in many cases of inferior quality, and liable to disturbance at stated seasons by other demands. There is a general lack of the best quality.

In many districts in Virginia enterprises of local or of more extended range, which have sprung up and become active in recent years, are withdrawing labor from the farm, while they increase to a great extent the demand for farm products. Public works, railroads, lumber, and mining and manufacturing industries of various kinds, with the usual inclination to town or city employments, have made farm labor scarce in about fifty counties. In some of these there would be enough if it could be relied upon, and in others but for the fisheries, which interfere with its annual employment. There are few counties in this State which show much surplus of farm or other laborers.

About the same may be said of West Virginia as of the parent State as to labor supply and conditions. Manufacturing, mining, lumbering, and railroad building and operation offer better wages than the farm, while they make a market for farm products. A few counties report a sufficient supply or a surplus.

The situation does not seem to have materially changed in many of the cotton States during the past few years. In Georgia the complaint is general in the middle portion of the southern part (the pine region) of deficient supply on account of the demand for labor at higher wages on the turpentine farms and at sawmills. Similar complaints come from counties along the line of railroads in process of construction. Complaints on account of emigration of laborers westward are now comparatively rare. Forty-three counties report scarcity, generally due to the causes above stated, to low wages, renting of lands, the movement towards cities, employment in manufactories, building of public works, and some emigration westward is noted still. In about thirty counties plenty of labor for farms is noted. In North and South Carolina similar conditions exist, attributable to similar or identical causes, and the same may be said of Florida, except that the scarcity of farm labor is more widespread there.

In Alabama a scarcity is noted in about half the counties, due to mining, milling, furnaces, and shops, railroading, and some emigration. In the remainder of the State farm labor is either sufficient or abundant, but in some parts of poor quality. In nearly the same proportion Tennessee shows a deficiency in farm labor. The same causes produce the scarcity, where it exists, and the same remarks as to quality apply.

In Mississippi there is an exodus from the inland to the river counties, west Mississippi and the Yazoo bottom being the recipients of the outflow. From Jasper County the report states that "better lands, better wages, and a desire among the colored people to huddle together have caused a thousand to leave here for the Mississippi bottoms and Arkansas;" and corresponding statements are made from some other counties. But in over a half of the State there is a fair or abundant supply of labor, although not of a satisfactory quality in some instances.

In Louisiana "farm laborers are abundant on the Mississippi River and tributaries, but scarce in the interior, because the colored man desires to be on the water courses, both for protection and comfort," it is reported generally; but more specially a scarcity in fourteen counties is noted, due to individual farming to a considerable extent, to emigration to the river towns, to working land on shares, and to some extent to emigration from the State.

In Texas, also, in fully half the State a deficiency is noted. In some instances the demand has increased because of a decrease in stock-raising and enlargement of cultivated areas, in others the scarcity is due to want of continuous employment, or because unreliable seasons make wages too low, while a variety of other employments and emi-

gration have their influence. There are a great many Swedish and German laborers in this State, who are as a rule very reliable, but their tendency is to acquire and cultivate land for themselves.

In about three-fifths of Arkansas, farm labor is abundant for the demand, while in the remainder of the State, from various causes, it is more or less scarce, local occupations of the usual different kinds calling it off. "There is no scarcity of farm labor reported, except in a few localities, where public improvements are being carried forward, and in the vicinity of large lumbering districts and manufacturing establishments, where steady employment can be obtained at fair wages," is the general report.

In more than half the counties of Tennessee, farm labor is reported to be in ample supply, with occasional complaint as to its inefficiency. In some sections the call for labor is less than formerly, because of more attention to grain and grass and less to cotton raising. In the remaining counties scarcity is complained of, caused mainly by the demands of public enterprises, railroads, manufactories, mines, etc., and the offers of higher wages.

In Kentucky, in two-thirds of the counties, there is sufficient to abundant supply of farm labor, but it is quite generally reported to be of inferior quality. In other districts there is more or less scarcity, laborers preferring to become renters or to obtain employment in other than farm occupations. Lumber mills, factories, railroads, etc., also diminish the supply of farm laborers in their vicinity.

In Ohio there appear to be few localities where farm labor is abundant, but many more where it is nearly equal to the demand, except sometimes at harvest. In some counties scarcity is produced by employment on the lakes, on railroads, and in mills and shops, and in a few by the long days required, 14 to 16 hours. In over half the State the supply is deficient. The boys are usually at school, and the young men seek other than farm employment.

In Indiana the reports show that in a third of the counties the supply is insufficient, at ruling rates, and in some others there is scarcity in times of pressure of farm work. The growth of towns, increase of demand in factories and in the gas belt, in the mines, and in various lines of business offering steadier employment or higher wages, call away laborers from the farms. In the remaining two-thirds labor is abundant, or sufficient except sometimes by the month, because of the increased use or efficiency of machinery.

Throughout considerably more than half the counties of Illinois farm labor is reported to have been scarce during the year, and in many others during the seasons of planting and harvesting. The demand has been somewhat greater than usual, because of exceptionally heavy crops. To the usual inducements to leave the farm, such as better wages, or steadier or more agreeable employment, or the desire to take up land farther West, has been added the call of new industries and the demand created by the approaching Exposition, in Chicago. "The

counties reporting a deficiency of farm labor are in the north half of the State, and are generally contiguous to cities and manufacturing towns," is the report of the State agent, and "the West, too, continues to draw annually many of our enterprising young farmers." Through less than half the counties the usual sufficient or abundant supply of labor is noted.

Throughout the largest parts of Michigan and Wisconsin there is complaint of scarcity of farm labor. Lumbering and mining pay much better wages than are usually offered on farms, and besides the usual drift to cities many of the young men go west and take up land. In localities where the lumber business has decreased considerably there is a sufficient supply of labor, as well as upon the small homesteads worked by their owners.

In over three-fifths of the counties of Minnesota a scarcity of labor is reported. In one county it is stated that there was the greatest scarcity of help during the harvest season. In some counties "double the number available could have found employment" from the first of July to November, and from counties adjoining the Dakotas laborers were drawn off by the better wages and more employment offered therein. The cities and lumber industries also diminished the supply of farm labor. Nearly two-fifths of the counties report a sufficient or abundant supply, in some cases caused by a lessened demand due to the use of improved farm machinery.

In Iowa considerably over half the counties report scarcity, more or less severely felt, and especially during the harvest, as "with machinery one man can get in more than he can get off." In many instances "the heavy crops caused an unusual demand" and increased wages, while in many others the use of machinery, reducing the time in which labor is in demand, compels it to seek other than farm employment. Railroads, growing towns, and westward movements draw much of it away, as in other States. In about thirty counties the supply is generally equal to or above the demand, except in harvest, for day labor in frequent instances.

In fifty-four counties of Missouri farm labor is reported to be sufficient or abundant, while about thirty report more or less deficiency. On the other hand, Kansas shows a nearly equally predominant scarcity. There have been large losses by young men going farther west, especially to Oklahoma, and the deficiency was felt unusually because of a larger crop production last year. The deficiency in Kansas and excess in Missouri, if equalized, would leave no room for complaint in either State, from workmen or employers. In the Indian Territory and Oklahoma the supply is in the main equal to the demand.

From Nebraska two-thirds of the reports are of scarcity, and very few of abundance, caused by laborers having been brought in by the railroads to supply the demand. The large crop of last year increased the demand unusually, but the principal reason for much of the scarcity is that other occupations are sought and the young men still "go west" farther.

In South Dakota three-fourths of the counties report a deficient supply of labor, especially in the harvest season, caused by an unusually abundant crop in many instances, and by lack of steady demand in others, and by the fact of so many workmen taking homesteads or renting land. Crop failures of previous years also tended to disperse labor in some instances. There is a general sufficiency in the remainder of the State, subject to some exceptions in harvest time.

What is stated of South Dakota applies measurably to North Dakota. Here, also, the large crop caused an exceptional demand, the use of machinery abridged the limits of employment, and the desire of workmen to own their own farms and operate them, made wage labor scarce and high, especially in the busiest season.

In Colorado the supply is mainly sufficient, deficiencies, where they occur, being usually due to the mines. So also in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Nevada there is scarcely any evidence of deficiency, and where it occurs an abundance is reported near. In Utah, however, reports of scarcity are most numerous and emphatic.

In California, Oregon, and Washington there is a general sufficiency of laborers on farms, some scarcity being noted in a few counties only, and attributable to mining and milling, generally.

LOCAL NOTES.

Notes from our county correspondents are presented in considerable detail for the local lights they give:

MAINE.—*Penobscot*: Scarce, as men are mostly in the sawmills or on rivers. *York*: Plenty of help, mostly French, as Americans are too independent and want to get to the cities. *Waldo*: Many of the laboring class go to the large cities and to the West. *Kennebec*: Rather scarce, as many young men go into manufactories. *Oxford*: Are not readily obtained, owing to the large number of mills and factories offering better wages than a farmer can pay. *Sagadahoc*: Good labor is scarce on account of low wages. *Aroostook*: Plenty of help, as there is a large French population in the northern part of the county. *Hancock*: Deficient on account of manufactories. *Piscataqua*: Scarce, as better wages are paid on the river.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—*Merrimack*: Plenty of help the past summer, as low water caused many mills to shut down. *Carroll*: Deficient, as young men go into the factories. *Grafton*: Deficient, as the railroads and the factories take most of the young men. *Strafford*: Scarce. *Belknap*: Scarce. *Sullivan*: Good hands are scarce, as they go to work in factories, where pay is better and exposure in winter less. *Hillsboro*: Good help is rather scarce.

VERMONT.—*Windsor*: Supply is deficient for eight months. *Washington*: Good help is rather scarce; cheap help is more plenty. *Lamoille*: Very scarce, as men prefer to work in mills. *Caledonia*: Scarcity of help. *Bennington*: Supply hardly equal to the demand, as men can work in shops for more pay and less hours. *Franklin*: Very deficient, as manufacturing towns draw them off. *Orange*: Quite scarce, owing to the feeling that they must go to the city. *Orleans*: Scarce, as the young men go west. *Windham*: Not abundant. *Essex*: Abundant. *Chittenden*: Rather scarce, as men like to work in shops and on railroads rather than on farms.

MASSACHUSETTS.—*Norfolk*: First-class help is scarce, as other industries get the best. *Plymouth*: About enough to supply the demand. *Franklin*: Plenty on ac-

count of foreign classes. *Essex*: Honest, reliable farm help is very scarce; one reason being intemperance, and another their desire to work in cities. *Hampshire*: In sparsely-settled districts help is scarce, but nearer business centers more plenty. *Worcester*: Scarce; caused by low wages and a desire to work in towns. *Middlesex*: Not so abundant as usual. *Hampden*: Good farm help is very scarce, as manufacturing industries draw from the farm. *Bristol*: Competent farm labor is scarce, as they can obtain better wages at other occupations.

RHODE ISLAND.—*Bristol*: Scarce and poor, as our men flock to factories. *Newport*: Plenty of help, except during July and August. *Washington*: Scarce, but the scarcity is principally caused by laziness.

CONNECTICUT.—*New Haven*: Good help very scarce, as manufacturing interests take them to cities. *Middlesex*: Scarce, on account of quarries and manufactories. *Litchfield*: Plenty of help. *Fairfield*: First-class labor is scarce; green foreign help plenty. *New London*: Good laborers scarce; manufacturing, trade, and seafaring are more attractive. *Tolland*: Deficient. *Hartford*: Scarce, as men would rather work for \$1 per day and board themselves than to go into a good home where they can not be with other men. *Windham*: Scarce, as men prefer to work in mills and in towns; very rare that any go west now.

NEW YORK.—*Herkimer*: Competent help is scarce, as manufacturers pay higher wages. *Lewis*: Demand and supply are about evenly balanced. *Oswego*: Labor is equal to the demand, and no crops have been neglected for want of it. The laborer does well on the farm, for a few years past; his house, cow, and garden have been found him, and he does better than the farmers. *Rensselaer*: Scarce, as they look for employment in cities and on railroads. *Fulton*: Scarce, as dressing of skins and the manufacture of mittens and gloves takes the men. *Albany*: Scarce, because so many obtain employment on railroads and in cities. *Allegany*: Not plentiful, because they go to work in the oil field. *Broome*: Good farm hands are scarce because the manufacturers of Binghamton take the men away. *Cattaraugus*: No complaint of deficiency. *Clinton*: Deficient. *Columbia*: Scarce, and more than half are foreign born. *Essex*: Enough, but not first class. *Delaware*: For the past few years in fair supply. *Franklin*: For the last ten or twelve years there has been but little trouble in getting help. *Greene*: Fresh immigrants are supplying the deficiency. *Kings*: A scarcity, caused by abundance of work on public improvements. It is more difficult each year to get men to work. Large contracts are given out yearly, and men are in constant demand. *Madison*: Not plentiful, as they seek employment in cities and manufacturing towns. *Otsego*: No difficulty to get the help required. *Seneca*: There seems to be a disposition of farmers' sons to leave the farm for lighter occupations. *Steuben*: Plentiful, such as they are. *Wayne*: Very scarce most of the year, as men seem to prefer life in city and work at trades. *Westchester*: Not abundant. *Wyoming*: First-class hands are scarce, on account of the large number employed in the salt works. *Rockland*: Comparatively deficient. *Ulster*: Scarce, as cement and other works take away the laborers. *Chemung*: Near the city help is abundant, but taking the county as a whole there is a deficiency. *Monroe*: Abundant, except in early summer. *Warren*: Comparatively deficient, as men are asking for more pay and less work. *Yates*: Scarce, as there is more demand for men in the vineyards. *Jefferson*: Not numerous, owing to factories. *Ontario*: Supply is fair. *Washington*: Deficient; caused mainly by calls for able workers in cities. *Saratoga*: Quite plenty by the day, but scarce by the month. *Schenectady*: Deficient, on account of the Edison and locomotive shops, where from 6,000 to 8,000 men and girls find employment. *Schoharie*: Abundant. *Chautauqua*: Deficient supply, as there are so many industries to draw from the farm. *Cortland*: Scarce, as the manufactories absorb all good workmen, paying better wages than a farmer can. *Schuyler*: Deficient, owing to building of railroads. *Suffolk*: Skilled farm laborers are scarce. *Tompkins*: Good farm labor is scarce, as men would rather work in gangs. *Cayuga*: All the help needed. *St. Lawrence*: There seems to be neither an excess nor a deficiency, and wages are normal. *Tioga*: Abundant, generally; a little scarce at harvest.

NEW JERSEY.—*Camden*: Intelligent labor has a decided preference for regular hours and higher wages in mills and foundries. *Middlesex*: Nearly all farm hands are obtained from intelligence offices in New York, and they are mostly Germans. *Atlantic*: Italians are mostly employed. *Cumberland*: A deficient supply, and many are relinquishing farming on that account. *Morris*: Farm laborers are scarce, and farmers have to do most of the work through exchange. *Union*: Scarce because of too long hours and city attractions. *Sussex*: Scarce, on account of railroads, factories, and wood-cutting. *Cape May*: Not abundant, owing to railroads and the oyster and clam industries. *Gloucester*: Not abundant, as most young men go to the cities. *Salem*: There appears to be a fair supply, but not of very satisfactory quality, as we have to resort to office help. *Warren*: Scarce. The binding harvester takes the place of manual labor, and men have sought other employment; hence it is hard to get what little help is wanted.

PENNSYLVANIA.—*Dauphin*: Rather scarce; the laborers are mostly old men and boys; the railroads and ironworks employ most of the young men. *Indiana*: Comparatively scarce, as laborers are employed in railroading, mining, and lumbering. *Lawrence*: Supply is deficient, as there are numerous sandstone quarries and railroads in the county. *Mifflin*: Have difficulty in getting farm hands, owing to mining. *Schuylkill*: Scarce, on account of coal works. *Cambria*: Fully supplied, but have none too many. *Erie*: Not plentiful, as the oil regions are too near. *Fayette*: There is a scarcity of laborers on account of coke-making. *Lebanon*: Rather scarce, as this is a manufacturing county and people flock to the cities. *Luzerne*: Scarce, as laborers would rather work on portable sawmills or in machine shops in town. *McKean*: Scarce during the farming season, as more are employed in peeling bark from May 15 to August 15, and then in skidding logs till cold weather. *Snyder*: Equal to the demand. *Sullivan*: Scarce, on account of lumbering and bark peeling. *Union*: Supply about equal to demand. *Wayne*: Have been scarce for a number of years, as they can do better by working for corporations. *Bedford*: Plenty for the work. *Bucks*: Are not plentiful, as higher wages are paid by manufacturers and railroad corporations. *York*: Are scarce, because of men moving into towns and following other pursuits. *Center*: Somewhat scarce the last few years, in consequence of the opening of iron mines in the vicinity. *Crawford*: No scarcity. *Forest*: Not abundant, on account of this being a lumber district. *Washington*: Are scarce, because of their moving into towns or to work on pipe lines. *Cumberland*: Not abundant, as the better class of men obtain higher wages and steadier employment in factories and workshops. *Greene*: Good laborers are scarce. *Huntingdon*: Scarce, and have been so for several years, owing to portable sawmills, railroads, ore and coal mines. *Somerset*: Scarce. *Allegheny*: Not abundant, as this is a coal region. *Armstrong*: Scarce, as higher wages are paid in the oil regions. *Blair*: No trouble in securing help in harvest. *Clarion*: Just about enough. *Warren*: Almost always deficient, as higher wages are paid in the oil regions and in lumber works. *Bradford*: Abundant by the season, but scarce for day labor. *Susquehanna*: Somewhat scarce, as low price of produce will not allow as high wages as are paid in manufactories. *Butler*: Deficient, mainly because the men are drawn into the oil operations. *Carbon*: Deficient, on account of public works. *Lackawanna*: Supply is about equal to the demand. *Columbia*: There is usually a scarcity during the busy season, as many seek other employment, where work is more regular. *Beaver*: There is just about the usual supply; from some cause, men and work are both plentiful, but farmers can not hire them and pay high wages. *Juniata*: There seems to be no scarcity except along the railroads. *Monroe*: Laborers are in abundance, as lumbering is a thing of the past and some go 20 miles to find work. *Northampton*: Very scarce. *Clinton*: Comparatively plentiful except near manufacturing towns. *Lycoming*: Scarce. *Montour*: There is no scarcity at the present wages. *Jefferson*: Scarce, as lumbering in adjoining counties calls for good men.

MARYLAND.—*Allegany*: Scarce on account of public works in the vicinity. *Garretts*: Rather scarce, as many are employed in lumbering near the line of West Vir-

ginia Central Railroad. *Harford*: Good laborers are scarce. *Kent*: Plentiful but very inferior in quality, as most of them are negroes and very unreliable. *Baltimore*: About sufficient for all purposes. *Carroll*: No scarcity except where low wages are paid. *Calvert*: Deficient, as many of our farm laborers move to the large cities. *Dorchester*: The opening of the oyster season September 1 takes away a great many farm laborers and causes a deficiency in early spring and fall. *Howard*: Very scarce, as they all flock to cities. *Queen Anne*: Plentiful, except in the oystering season. *St. Marys*: Scarce, owing to the low wages paid. *Somerset*: Are scarce during the oyster season. *Wicomico*: In some sections abundant, but where oystering is done, labor is scarce. *Charles*: There is a great scarcity. *Montgomery*: Good labor hard to get; poor in large supply. *Talbot*: Scarce, as the best hands are constantly going to cities and other places. *Cecil*: Men of ordinary ability are plentiful, but superior farm hands are hard to get. *Anne Arundel*: Deficient, and yearly becoming more so; caused by the cities absorbing them. *Caroline*: Plentiful. *Prince George*: Good labor is scarce. The best farm laborers are renting land. *Frederick*: Good hands are scarce, as they have gone to furnaces and railroads, and the drones are left.

VIRGINIA.—*Albemarle*: Not very abundant. *Fauquier*: About an adequate supply. *Stafford*: Farm hands are scarce, as other occupations pay better. *Appomattox*: Very scarce, owing to work on railroads and in coal pits. *Bedford*: Very scarce, as higher wages are paid in cities and on public works. *Chesterfield*: Very scarce on account of a tendency to go to cities. *Craig*: Plenty for the demand. *Fluvanna*: Deficient supply, due to low price of farm products. *Goochland*: Very scarce, as all the best hands are on public works. *Orange*: Deficient, owing to able-bodied young men seeking employment other than farm work. *Spottsylvania*: There is a deficient supply, as there is a demand for laborers in sulphur and copper mines. *Accomac*: Are sufficient in numbers could they be induced to work; after earning a few dollars they quit work until it is gone; the correspondent has been trying the plan of giving them one-third of all crops produced, they only performing the labor, but finds that they unnecessarily neglect their work. *Hanover*: There are enough, but they are too lazy to work. *King George*: Good labor is very scarce; plenty of boys and old men, but good men are off on public works. *Loudoun*: About equal to the demand, as the demand is not so great as in former years on account of machinery. *Lunenburg*: Efficient labor is very scarce, as most of the men are on public works or railroads. *Montgomery*: Deficient. Laborers are drawn off by railroad construction and public works. *Northampton*: Not abundant. *Prince William*: Are hard to get, as they seek work elsewhere at higher wages. *Surry*: Negro laborers are getting scarcer every year, as they prefer to herd together at sawmills, coal pits, or mines. *Warren*: Farm labor is done in a great measure by white tenants. *Buchanan*: Scarcity on account of better wages on public works and lumbering. *Carroll*: Abundant. *Franklin*: Deficient, on account of work on railroads. *Henrico*: Scarce and poor. *King and Queen*: Scarce and inefficient, as large numbers go off to cities and eschew farm work. *Shenandoah*: Very scarce. *Washington*: Abundant, such as they are, but good reliable help is deficient in supply and commands higher wages. *Westmoreland*: The supply is sufficient, but not so abundant as it was a few years ago, the tendency being towards cities. *Tazewell*: No surplus, since larger wages are paid at coal mines. *Buckingham*: Not abundant, as higher wages are paid on railroads, mines, and in cities. *Charles City*: Scarce, because negroes will shirk work. *Dinwiddie*: Are becoming scarce, owing to the demand for hands to cut wood, railroad ties, and to work at lumber mills. *Floyd*: Scarce, from several causes. Some have gone to the West, some to cities, and some to mines. *Greene*: Scarce, owing to public works. *James City*: Abundant, but yearly diminishing, as the best men go to cities. *King William*: We have plenty. *Mathews*: Labor is scarce, owing to oyster business. *Middlesex*: Abundant, as we are a long way from railroads and cities. *Northumberland*: Scarce, except by the day, as the men prefer fishing, oystering, and working on the river. *Richmond*: Deficient, as many have gone North and

on the river fishing and oystering. *Rockbridge*: Scarce. *Smyth*: Scarce, on account of railroads and other public works. *Nelson*: Comparatively deficient on account of railroads and mining. *Prince Edward*: Not abundant, as men go to work on railroads and in mines. *Roanoke*: There is some complaint of deficiency in harvest work, as men are paid better wages on public works. *Greensville*: A little deficient, as sawmills are numerous and they draw off the men. *Highland*: Good reliable men are scarce. *Bath*: Farm laborers are scarce on account of railroads. *Alleghany*: There is labor enough, but mining and railroad building makes it high. *Patrick*: Supply is limited, owing to better prices being paid in other things. *Pittsylvania*: Scarce, owing to new railroads and booming towns. *Page*: Deficient, on account of the demand for laborers on public works. *Russell*: Abundant. *Bland*: Enough to supply the demand at all seasons. *Wise*: Plenty of help. *Henry*: First-rate hands are scarce on account of railroad building. *Amherst*: Deficient. *Culpeper*: Rather scarce, owing to demand for labor on public improvements and in manufactories. *Essex*: Scarce, owing to demand for labor among truckers in Delaware and New Jersey. *Halifax*: the demand for capable laborers is greater than the supply, as they receive larger wages on public works than farmers can pay. Many farms are deserted and the fields left uncultivated. *Nottoway*: Very scarce for male laborers, as they go to work on railroads for higher wages. *York*: Plentiful, but very unreliable. *Charles City*: Farm labor is more and more uncertain and indifferent.

NORTH CAROLINA.—*Beaufort*: In some neighborhoods abundant, but near lumber mills and fisheries scarce. *Bertie*: Rather high, as the lumber business gets the men, wages being higher. *Buncombe*: Prior to the cultivation of tobacco farm help was abundant, now that class rent land and grow tobacco. *Carteret*: Growing scarce and are more lacking in efficiency every year. *Columbus*: Are scarce, as they have been drawn away to go to the turpentine works. *Currituck*: Supply of labor sufficient but there is a disposition to idleness. *Granville*: Employers who are of known integrity and pay promptly get plenty of help. *Iredell*: Very scarce, as lumbering and railroading pay better. *Jones*: Timber getters take men off but there are enough left. *McDowell*: About as usual. *Mecklenburg*: Abundant, because 25 per cent additional lands are being devoted to grass and grain. *Montgomery*: Deficient in supply. *Moore*: Scarce, on account of public works. *Orange*: Scarce, as they have gone to towns and to work on railroads. *Pender*: Deficient. *Person*: Comparatively scarce, as they go to towns and cities. *Robeson*: Scarce, on account of sawmills, timber getters, and railroads. *Rockingham*: Deficient supply, as they flock to coal mines and to work on railroads, where better wages are paid. *Sampson*: Scarce, owing to their leaving for Georgia and other States. *Surry*: A deficient supply of farm hands, caused by hands working in factories and on railroads and other public places where the work or prices suit better. *Cleveland*: Rather scarce, owing to the erection of cotton mills. *Wayne*: Scarce, owing to more land being cultivated and emigration of negroes to the South and West. *Guilford*: They are scarce and unreliable, most of them having gone to towns to do other work. *Henderson*: Not abundant. *Pamlico*: There is no scarcity. *Rutherford*: Scarce, on account of manufactories of different kinds being built. *Stokes*: Deficient; cause, going to lumber mills, factories, and to work on railroads. *Union*: Abundant. *Richmond*: Sufficient and reliable for all crops in the county. *Transylvania*: Sufficient supply. *Yadkin*: Very scarce, owing to land owners renting out their land. *Chatham*: Scarce, as women do little work and many families have gone to town. *Nash*: Scarce, as many negroes went from here to the southwest. *Randolph*: All the help that is necessary. *Wilson*: Labor was scarce the present year, caused by the exodus of 1889. *Durham*: Rather scarce, owing to exodus South. *Gates*: Limited, owing to a great many going to other States. *Mitchell*: Supply is about sufficient for the demand. *Craven*: There is a scarcity in the spring, owing to an increase in area in spring crops. *Greene*: Rather scarce, on account of emigration two or three years ago; under present law, emigration agents have to pay \$1,000 in every county in which they operate. *Lincoln*: Scarce, as men have gone to work on railroads and

in factories. *Northampton*: Not as abundant as last year, as many have gone into the lumber business. *Swain*: No scarcity, as men would rather work on farm at smaller wages than on public works. *Waturga*: Laborers are plentiful except for a few days in the hurry of harvest. *Bladen*: Deficient, as cotton brought such low prices and higher wages are paid on turpentine farms in Georgia. *Lenoir*: There has always been plenty of labor in the county. *Halifax*: There is a little want of labor, but we could do very well if the laborer was industrious. *Macon*: Supply is about equal to the demand. *Yancey*: Scarce, on account of the number required in the lumber business and sawmills. *Caldwell*: Less abundant, as new enterprises create a demand for labor at better prices. *Ashe*: Deficient, on account of work on railroads and public improvements. *Forsyth*: Scarce, as there is a demand for labor in growing towns. *Graham*: Scarce, on account of the lumber business in the county. *Alleghany*: Scarce, as public works and railroads pay better wages. *Johnston*: Scarce, on account of laborers going further South. *Edgecombe*: Sufficient for all demands. *Haywood*: Generally abundant.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—*Colleton*: Are scarce, wholly owing to the phosphate works, where they can earn more money. *Newberry*: Plenty. *Pickens*: Scarce as hired hands, as they prefer to work for part of the crop. *Greenville*: Sufficient. *Oconee*: Very plentiful, only in pushing harvest times. *Union*: No scarcity. *Georgetown*: There is scarcity of help, because the young negroes do not like field work and go to cities, and the women, who constitute the strength of work in the rice fields, are lazy and do not do more than six hours' work in a whole day, so that 40 cents may be said to be paid for six hours' work. *Kershaw*: About enough to supply demands. *Sumter*: Scarce. *Laurens*: Scarce, owing to emigration West and removal to towns. *York*: Abundant. *Lexington*: Generally a full supply, but emigration sometimes causes a deficiency. *Williamsburg*: Scarce, as they are drawn away by turpentine works in Georgia. *Marlboro*: No scarcity. *Darlington*: Abundant, owing chiefly to short cotton crop and low prices.

GEORGIA.—*Laurens*: Very scarce and unreliable. *Cherokee*: Deficient in consequence of demand for labor on railroads, etc. *Clayton*: Abundant, because the colored race are becoming less satisfactory as tenants. *Cobb*: Insufficient, owing to the attractions of town and city. *Coffee*: Deficient. *Colquitt*: Deficient; the turpentine industry drawing from the farms. *Glynn*: Abundant. *Greene*: A good average supply. *Oconee*: Plenty, but not very reliable. *Muscogee*: Generally abundant. *Paulding*: Scarce, the farmer being unable to compete in wages with labor on the public works. *Pierce*: Some complaint of scarcity during the past season, mainly caused by demand for labor on turpentine works and sawmills, they paying better wages. *Quitman*: Abundant. *Randolph*: An increasing scarcity each year, as the colored people move to town. *Rockdale*: Moderate supply during winter and spring; scarce during the harvest season. *Stewart*: Rather scarce, owing to the building of railroads through the county. *Talbot*: Most laborers on farms either rent the land or work by the year. Day labor is scarce in busy seasons. *Telfair*: Other employments draw from the farm and labor is very scarce. *Harris*: Abundant on account of crop failures. *Washington*: Sufficient for the demand. *Bibb*: Less cotton is planted and some old land turned out, thereby causing an oversupply of farm laborers. *Dawson*: The supply is equal to the demand. *Houston*: Scarce, on account of the tenant system prevailing here. *Taylor*: Plentiful at present, but have been scarce on account of extensive building of railroads. *Carroll*: Very scarce, owing to low prices of farm produce, which caused a reduction in wages of laborers. *Macon*: Abundant. The very low price of cotton has thrown many out, who have hitherto been employed. *Marion*: Abundant. *Thomas*: Insufficient, owing to the demand for labor on the railroads and in the turpentine industry. *Millon*: A reasonably good supply. *Montgomery*: Manufacturers of naval stores and lumber can pay more wages than farmers; therefore farm laborers are scarce. *Troup*: Supply is sufficient. *Ware*: Abundant at this time, but the negroes are drifting more toward the cities.

Webster: Less plentiful than heretofore. *Chatham*: In some portions of the county farm laborers are scarce on account of better wages paid by other industries. *Habersham*: We have no difficulty in procuring farm labor, although the negro is uncertain. He is indifferent about work if he has a little ahead. *Calhoun*: Plentiful, but not altogether reliable. *Campbell*: Scarce, but not much in demand, as most laborers either rent or cultivate on shares. *Dougherty*: Scarce, caused by other industries paying better wages. *Fayette*: In deficient supply; railroads paying better wages. *Jones*: Scarce, on account of the low price of cotton. *Newton*: Plenty of laborers. *Oglethorpe*: Supply sufficient for the demand. *Rabun*: Scarce. *Tatnall*: Distressingly scarce; nearly all the labor being employed on turpentine farms. *Towns*: Abundant, on account of low price of farm products and consequent scarcity of money to pay for labor. *Twiggs*: Formerly laborers were abundant, but within three years there has been a falling off, owing to lumber mills and railroads offering better wages than the price of cotton will warrant the farmer in paying. *Union*: Abundant. *Walker*: Laborers are plentiful, but not in excess. *White*: Supply is ample. *Wilkinson*: Very scarce. Owing to stock law in a portion of this county laborers have gone to other counties. *Appling*: Deficient supply, owing to numbers employed in the turpentine and lumber industry. *Baldwin*: Less abundant year by year, owing to more or less emigration of negroes to the West. *Catoosa*: Abundant, except for about two months of the year in the busiest crop time. *Chattooga*: Not plentiful; engaged in other industries. *Dooly*: Labor has been abundant during the entire year. *Douglas*: Somewhat scarce; some emigration to the West. *Echols*: Scarce; engaged in other industries that pay better wages. *Fannin*: Deficient; public works pay better wages. *Lincoln*: Scarce, owing to the vagrant disposition of the negro and want of a railroad in the county. *Pickens*: Comparatively scarce; public works paying better. *Polk*: Sufficient for demand in this section. *Pulaski*: Sufficient for the demand. *Spalding*: Scarce; gone to the cities and towns or employed on the railroads. *Terrell*: Scarce; many rented land and farmed for themselves. This method proved a failure, and laborers will probably be more plentiful another year. *Wilkes*: Considerable complaint of scarcity of laborers, they seeking easier places. *Clay*: Abundant now; owing to the stringency of the times they are unable to run small farms for themselves, as formerly. *Irwin*: Scarce. *Charlton*: Scarce; turpentine works pay better than labor on the farm. *Early*: Abundant, from the fact that some small farmers and renters are broken up and have to return to day labor, and also because of the less acreage of cotton that will be planted this year. *Wayne*: Farm laborers have generally been rather scarce, owing to better wages being paid by sawmills and turpentine manufacturers. *Whitfield*: Scarce, other industries paying better wages. *Baker*: Lumbermen, turpentine farms, and sawmills draw from the farm; hence a scarcity of laborers. *Glascok*: Not plentiful; turpentine farms, railroads, and the cities attract laborers from the farms. *Taliaferro*: Plenty of labor for cotton-picking, but scarce during the season of grain harvest and cotton-chopping.

FLORIDA.—*Alachua*: Somewhat scarce, owing to the large number employed in the phosphate mines. *Jackson*: Abundance of good farm laborers. *Osceola*: A good supply. *Sumter*: Scarce during the past year on account of rush of labor to the phosphate mines. *Volusia*: In summer plentiful; during the winter fruit-pickers are scarce. *Clay*: Supply insufficient. *Bradford*: Scarce; better wages than the farmer can afford to pay have drawn most of the labor to the immense turpentine farms and phosphate mines. *Clay*: Abundant. *Pasco*: Deficient, because of the demand for labor in the phosphate mines. *Santa Rosa*: Scarce and hard to get. *Washington*: In deficient supply. *Holmes*: Scarce; laborers go where they can command better wages, and the farmer here has to help his neighbor after finishing his own work. *Marion*: In deficient supply, because of so many being employed in phosphate mines and on railroads. *Putnam*: Scarce, owing to the demand for labor on railroads and in phosphate mines and orange groves. *Hillsboro*: Scarce; employed

by the railroads. *Orange*: Plentiful. *Taylor*: Farm labor scarce in consequence of the demand by the railroad and phosphate companies. *Brevard*: This being a new county laborers are scarce and wages high. *Dade*: Average supply. *Gadsen*: Rather scarce; work on railroads employing many. *Hernando*: Deficient, caused by demand for laborers for timber cutting and phosphate rock mining. *Leon*: Very few can be hired for the year; supply of day labor more abundant. *Jefferson*: Scarce; other avocations are more remunerative. *Walton*: Scarce, because of the demand for laborers in the milling and lumber business. *Nassau*: Abundant, but not reliable. *Lake*: Abundant.

ALABAMA.—*Etowah*: Farm laborers are somewhat scarce owing to our proximity to public works. *Walker*: But few laborers will hire to farmers, as all the able-bodied men can get employment at higher wages at the coal mines. *Barbour*: Abundant. *Bullock*: Abundant. *Milton*: Ample supply for all necessary farming purposes. *Choctaw*: Very plentiful. *Clarke*: Common labor abundant; good labor deficient. *Conecuh*: In all departments of farm as well as other branches of labor, the supply is equal to the demand. *Elmore*: Scarce, owing to the demand, with higher wages, in other departments of industry. *Geneva*: Insufficient supply; higher wages paid by timber men and mills have depleted the farm. *Jackson*: Sufficient supply. *Lawrence*: No scarcity of labor. *Louder*: Normal. *Madison*: Abundant. *Marengo*: Plenty of labor. *Pike*: Scarce, owing to emigration. *Randolph*: Very scarce, many laborers having gone to other States. *Sumter*: We have about as many as are needed, but laborers are leaving for the mines, where they receive better wages. *Tallapoosa*: Plentiful, but unreliable. *Hale*: Some deficiency, many having gone to northern Alabama to work in furnaces, shops, and on railroads. *Henry*: Scarce. *Lee*: Plentiful. *St. Clair*: Not very plentiful, the mineral industry employing much of the labor in this vicinity. *Wilcox*: Supply equal to the demand. *Autauga*: Good laborers are scarce. *Cleburne*: Well supplied. *De Kalb*: About equal to the demand. *Franklin*: Owing to mining interests, farm laborers have been rather scarce for the past few years. *Chambers*: Scarce; many in schools and on public works. *Cherokee*: Supply about equal to the demand. *Dallas*: Labor in sufficient abundance. *Monroe*: Deficient in supply. Public lands have caused many to homestead. *Montgomery*: Deficient; considerably so in many localities. The system in vogue here, under which supplies are advanced to colored laborers and tenants, and mortgages foreclosed when they are unable to pay, is very detrimental to the interest of the community, as the laborers, being discouraged and broken up, leave the farms and loiter around the cities and towns. *Russell*: A moderate supply. *Bibb*: Abundant, because of the low price of cotton. *Greene*: Deficient supply; laborers seek other fields of labor where wages are better. *Lamar*: Sufficient supply; the most of the labor is done by renters. *Limestone*: Supply only moderate; laborers going westward. *Talladega*: Rather scarce; iron furnaces and sawmills drawing from the farm. *Dale*: Scarce; many taking up homesteads on vacant land in the vicinity, and others employed by the two railroads passing through the county.

MISSISSIPPI.—*Jones*: Not very plentiful. *Perry*: Abundant, but of an exceedingly unreliable character. As a rule, no crop can be wholly made by colored labor. We have no other kind. *Hinds*: Unusually abundant. The low price of cotton for the last two years induced more to hire for wages than formerly. *Lafayette*: As a rule, there is no deficiency. *Itawamba*: Sufficient supply. *Tishomingo*: Abundant. *Tunica*: Abundant supply. *Union*: Plenty of labor. *Washington*: Ample supply. *Coahoma*: Ample. *Greene*: Insufficient; turpentine and timber industry employing much of the labor in this vicinity. *Issaquena*: In fair supply. *Jackson*: Scarce on account of sawmills, which offer inducements in the way of less hours, etc. *Lauderdale*: Sufficient for all requirements. *Marshall*: Supply insufficient. *Pike*: Very scarce, owing to demand for labor in other directions. *Sunflower*: Not abundant. *Winston*: Scarce; negroes going to other States and but few emigrants coming in.

Webster: Noscarcity. *Panola*: Plenty of labor of every class. *Wayne*: Rather scarce. In the turpentine industry they make as good or better wages, and work only a part of the time. *Alcorn*: Farm labor is scarce, because of the tendency of the negroes to move westward, to the Mississippi and Yazoo bottoms and to Arkansas. *Bolivar*: About equal to the demand. *Calhoun*: Equal to the demand. *Chickasaw*: Scarce, because a large number have emigrated to other States and the Mississippi bottoms, *Grenada*: Ample supply. *Harrison*: Abundant. *Jasper*: Plenty of worthless labor, but good labor very scarce. *Lee*: Very scarce. Better lands, better wages, and a desire among colored people to huddle together has caused thousands to leave here for the Mississippi bottoms and for Arkansas. *Monroe*: Has been abundant, but is now becoming scarce. The cotton crop has been short for three successive years, and the present low price has been so discouraging as to cause laborers to leave for the alluvial lands of the Mississippi and its tributaries. Much cultivated land will lie fallow another year. *Lincoln*: Not so abundant as formerly. Many have left the farms and gone to the saw mills which have increased in number for a few years past in this (the yellow-pine belt) section. *Corington*: Abundant, owing to the low price of cotton and also to difficulty in getting credit so as to farm for themselves. *De Soto*: Abundant for the past year. *Leftore*: Very well supplied this year, by many coming in from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama; but as many are leaving for the West, it promises to be scarce the coming year. *Madison*: Comparatively scarce, many of the better class having gone to the Mississippi bottoms, where wages are higher. *Copiah*: Insufficient for the demand at present, but the exceedingly low price of cotton will divert them from the farm to other pursuits or leave them without employment. *Franklin*: Has been scarce, but on account of the low price of cotton and the disposition to reduce the crop many laborers will be without employment. *Holmes*: Not very plentiful. *Jefferson*: Scarce, moving to the cities. *Lawrence*: Some scarcity, owing to low price of cotton, emigration, etc. *Prentiss*: About equal to the demand. *Tippah*: Sufficient for the demand.

LOUISIANA.—*Iberville*: In fair supply except during harvest, when much extra labor is required and obtained from other States. *La Fourche*: Generally abundant. During sugar-making laborers come in from elsewhere. *Tangipahoa*: Getting less abundant each year. *East Baton Rouge*: Deficient supply. *East Feliciana*: Scarce, owing to the loose way of renting land. *St. Helena*: A fair supply, but no surplus. *Bienville*: Scarce; emigration to Oklahoma and to towns and cities, homesteading and buying lands, leaving the cotton unpicked on account of low prices, are some of the reasons for the scarcity. *Morehouse*: Scarce, in consequence of emigration of the negro to Arkansas. *Tensas*: Farm labor is scarce in some localities for amount of open land. *Terre Bonne*: Plentiful, on account of short cotton crops. *Claiborne*: Abundant, owing to low price of cotton. *Iberia*: Labor for all purposes is plentiful and satisfactory. *Pointe Coupee*: In seasons of sugar-making and cotton-picking labor is scarce. *Acadia*: Scarce, owing principally to this section being newly settled, and also to the fact that land has been so cheap and abundant that almost every one owns his own land and farms for himself. *Aroyelles*: Laborers are not abundant, having left for other parts of the country. *Concordia*: Plentiful. *Cameron*: Sufficient for the demand. *De Soto*: Very little day or wages labor. Laborers, colored people; most of the white laborers owning or renting farms, generally work for a share of the crop. *Franklin*: Farm laborers very scarce; not nearly enough to supply the demand. Various causes have contributed to this deficiency; many have gone elsewhere, hoping to better their condition; some have been enabled to buy land and farm for themselves; others rent; and many, both men and women, have drifted into little hamlets and villages and there eke out a precarious living by doing job work. *Red River*: Abundant, but of inferior quality. *Richland*: Deficient, and in great demand. *St. Charles*: In deficient supply, because laborers leave the farms to work on railroads or in cities. *St. Landry*: Sufficient supply. *Caddo*: Demand fully supplied, and everything harmonious. *Caleasieu*: Very scarce, because

of the rapid development of the rice and cane interests in this parish. *Jackson*: Plenty of laborers, but no surplus. *West Feliciana*: Laborers are gradually leaving the hills and concentrating near the river and in towns. *Winn*: Generally have labor enough for all purposes. *Natchitoches*: Fairly abundant. *Ouachita*: In moderate supply only. *Plaquemines*: No surplus labor. Many farm hands are now profitably engaged in oyster fishing. *Sabine*: Very abundant now, there being no other industry at present to give them employment. *St. Tammany*: Plentiful.

TEXAS.—*Angelina*: Some deficiency, owing to the demand for laborers in the saw-mills springing up along the railroads. *Houston*: On account of the better wages paid at the lumber mills below here, farm labor is not very plentiful. *Navarro*: Sufficient for all purposes. *Anderson*: Scarce; other employments drawing from the farm. *Hunt*: A good supply. *Morris*: Scarce at this time; many going to Western and other States, where money is more plentiful. *Smith*: Abundant. *Tarrant*: Plentiful. *Tyler*: Scarce; farming has declined in the last ten years, and the lumber industry has taken its place. *Walker*: Abundant; so many colored people supporting themselves as laborers, having no farms of their own. *Wharton*: Day and monthly laborers in demand. Most of the farm work is done on the share or rent system. *Williamson*: In fair supply, as large numbers of freedmen hire on farms for their main support. *Austin*: Farming is neglected; laborers leave the farm for the town, hence a scarcity. *Bosque*: Labor is very scarce; not enough work to keep laborers here and give them employment the year around. *Cass*: Plenty, except in unusually busy seasons. *Comal*: Abundant, owing to close proximity to Mexico, where labor is cheap. *Frio*: Mostly Mexican labor, but in fairly good supply. *Galveston*: Not so scarce just now, on account of labor boom. *Hill*: In cotton-picking time scarce; at other times sufficient. *Midland*: Supply equal to demand. *Polk*: Scarce; saw mills give better wages than farmers can afford to pay. *Rush*: Rather deficient. Disposition to work at other employments. *Wilbarger*: Abundant. *Wise*: Abundant except in cotton hoeing and picking time. *Brazos*: Scarce, owing to a general disposition to go farther west. *Collin*: Equal to the demand, except during the cotton-picking season, when they are generally scarce. *Comanche*: Farm laborers scarce, because most of them cultivate their own land or rent. *Dallas*: Abundant; prices for farm products too low to risk much in their production. *Duval*: Laborers of the Mexican class are abundant, but they need intelligent foremen in order to do good work. *Edwards*: Farm laborers are scarce; stock business pays better wages and is preferred. *Erath*: Deficient; the uncertainty of the seasons make farming too unreliable to enable the farmer to pay such wages as can be obtained at other employments. *Potter*: Usually plentiful, it being more profitable for laborers to work for others than to farm for themselves. *Refugio*: This is chiefly a stock-raising county. There is sufficient labor for the demand. *Roberts*: Abundant. *Runnels*: First-class farm laborers, scarce. *Shackelford*: Good laborers are scarce. *Travis*: Good supply, but no surplus. *Trinity*: Deficient, most laborers preferring the sawmills. *Val Verde*: Mexican laborers in abundance. *Van Zandt*: Farm labor very scarce and high because of the demand at the salt works, sawmills, railroads, etc., and a disposition to abandon farming because of the low price of produce. *Washington*: Supply about equal to the demand. *Webb*: Mexican laborers are abundant. They are generally employed as shepherds and herders. Laborers for general agriculture are few, as the county consists mostly of pasture land. *Zavilla*: Abundant. *Blanco*: Scarce, owing to the absence of railroads and scarcity of negroes. *Brown*: Deficiency of perhaps 10 per cent. *Donley*: Scarce, because up to this year this county has been strictly a stock-raising and pasturing county. All the State school land and public lands of all kinds in this and adjoining counties have been opened up to actual settlers, and now there is a greater demand than ever for farm labor. *Falls*: Scarce because most of the desirable laborers are working for themselves on shares or otherwise. *Gonzales*: Deficient by reason of the departure of many young Englishmen who were employed on farms last year. *Grimes*: As in all newly settled States the

supply is deficient except in special localities. *Guadalupe*: Generally in sufficient supply. *McMullen*: Efficient white laborers are scarce. Mexican laborers are abundant, but not skilled in our modes of cultivation. *Franklin*: Scarce, railroads and saw mills offering inducements in the way of larger wages. *Grayson*: Except in the cotton-picking season there is no lack of farm laborers. *Jeff Davis*: We have Mexican laborers and they are always in abundance. *Jones*: Equal to demand. Not many wanted, as farmers exchange work. *Johnson*: Sufficient supply. *Karnes*: Reliable help is rather deficient. Land is so cheap that the better class of laborers have land of their own. *Liberty*: Scarce on account of abandonment of farms which commenced in 1880, farm laborers going to sawmills in counties east of this. *Mitchell*: Many laborers without employment, owing to depression in farming. *Montgomery*: Scarce, by reason of other occupations paying better. *Newton*: Scarce; better wages paid on railroads, timber works, mills, etc. *Ochiltree*: Has been equal to the demand, but becoming scarce, as laborers are leaving for other places. *Oldham*: But little farming done; supply of laborers equal to the demand. *Orange*: Farm laborers as a class do not exist here at all. A very small area of land is under cultivation. Very few farmers cultivate as much as 15 acres and the labor is performed by the owner and his family. The presence of vast saw and planing mills draws labor away from the farms; hence farming is dwarfed and neglected. *Cooke*: Rather scarce; prices for farm products being so low, the farmers are unable to compete with other industries in prices paid for labor. *Ellis*: Supply about equal to the demand. *Hopkins*: Supply insufficient; laborers go west for better wages. *Milam*: Abundant, because of the scarcity of money caused by the low price of cotton and other products. *Callahan*: Because of the many farms being opened in this new country, the supply of farm labor falls short of the demand. *Coleman*: Not as many hands as formerly are required in tending stock and for this reason farm laborers are abundant. *Ector*: Little farming is done here, and that on a small scale; there is no class in this vicinity denominated as farm laborers; herding is the main business. *Fisher*: Not much demand for farm laborers, but the supply is rather scarce, because stockmen pay better wages. *Fort Bend*: Scarce because of local disturbances. These disturbances being adjusted, laborers are returning, though not in sufficient numbers to supply the demand. *Hansford*: Plentiful, because the demand is small. *Marion*: Scarcity caused by demand for laborers in other industries. *San Augustine*: Moderate supply. There is but little demand for farm laborers, because of the low prices of farm products. *Somervell*: Scarce, owing to a general rush to the West for cheap land. *Kinney*: Labor is never scarce here; a sufficient supply comes from Mexico, but it is not as efficient as native labor. *Burnet*: Supply sufficient for demand. *Cameron*: Abundant; we have both sides of the Rio Grande to draw from; the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico, opposite this county, furnishes large numbers of laborers, who reside alternately in Texas or Mexico. *Delta*: Abundant. *Hood*: Plentiful. *Jefferson*: Plentiful at all times. *Llano*: Equal to the demand. *Nueces*: Abundant supply of Mexican laborers. *Parker*: Scarce in cotton-picking. *Red River*: Plentiful supply of good laborers. *Young*: Scarce, owing to remoteness from railroads. *Burleson*: Scarce, owing to the opening of new lands and lack of immigration. *Dinmit*: Very little hired for farming purposes, and that Mexican. *Hale*: Plentiful. *Hamilton*: Scarcity; very many farming on shares. *Jasper*: Very scarce, the best laborers following other pursuits, such as railroading and logging. *Kaufman*: This being a cotton country, we have little use for laborers in other capacities. During the season when labor is needed on this crop it is scarce, at other times plentiful; this will be the case until there is a greater diversity of industries. *Lipscomb*: Very scarce. *McCulloch*: Deficient. Farming is in its infancy in this county; consequently laborers have not immigrated here to any extent. *Matagorda*: Deficient in crop-gathering seasons. *Rains*: Scarce at times when public works that pay better wages are in progress.

ARKANSAS.—*Ashley*: Scarce; population small in proportion to territory. *Clark*: Sufficient for the demand. *Poinsett*: Plenty of labor. *Conway*: Not very abundant,

Desha: Very abundant, on account of the influx of large numbers of negroes from the Southern States. *Greene*: Insufficient, because the timber industry, with higher wages, has taken labor from the farm. *Izard*: Scarce, on account of the low rates of rent and the credit system. *Johnson*: Transient help for cotton hoeing and picking, also for harvesting, is scarce. *Lee*: Plentiful. *Lonoke*: Sufficient for demand. *Mississippi*: Plenty of labor. *Mouroe*: Insufficient, owing undoubtedly to the great demand for labor in the timber industry. *Nevada*: Abundant. *Prairie*: Very scarce. *Barter*: Deficient supply; most of the laboring class have farms of their own. *Drew*: Scarce; white men own farms and colored generally rent or work on shares, preferring to be their own masters. *Pike*: Abundant. *Scott*: Deficient supply. *Carroll*: Supply abundant. The sons of the small farmers on the mountains hire out, while the daughters work in the field. *Cleveland*: Very scarce, the numerous saw mills attracting the laborers. *Garland*: Comparatively abundant, there being no demand for labor, except on the farm. *Jefferson*: No lack of laborers. *Logan*: Very scarce. *Montgomery*: Enough for the demand. Residents willing to work for those needing and able to pay for their services. *Phillips*: Sufficient supply. *Pope*: Somewhat scarce, most persons preferring to farm on shares. *Stone*: Ample supply. *Union*: Abundant; all negro labor. *White*: The supply is more than equal to the demand. *Yell*: Nearly or quite equal to the demand. *Jackson*: Sufficient, but no surplus. *Polk*: Scarcity. *Perry*: Supply equal to the demand. *Arkansas*: Abundant, owing to the large immigration from North Carolina. *Boone*: Laborers plentiful. *Crawford*: Usually sufficient, but sometimes cotton hoe hands and pickers are scarce. *Grant*: Becoming scarce; transient hands drifting to the railroads. *Little River*: Supply equal to the demand. *St. Francis*: Scarce during cotton picking and hoeing; plentiful at other times. *Hot Springs*: Scarce, because of the demand, for labor in sawmills and on railroads. *Onachita*: Sufficient for the demand. *Cleburne*: No deficiency. *Columbia*: Very scarce, many farms remaining uncultivated for want of labor. *Fulton*: Farmers generally work their own farms and hire but little except in crop time. *Miller*: Scarce; have emigrated to other places. *Sebastian*: Scarce sometimes during cotton picking, but at other times sufficient for the demand.

TENNESSEE.—*Hardin*: Abundant and easy to control. *Jackson*: Good farm laborers are scarce, but common, inferior kinds are abundant. *Lewis*: Scarce; other work paying better wages. *Marshall*: The supply is fully equal to the demand. *Morgan*: Insufficient. *Washington*: Sufficient supply now, but a deficiency during the summer, many going to the city, where better wages were obtained. *Weakley*: Can be procured in abundance by making use of the floating labor about the town. *Blount*: Scarce and in demand. *Campbell*: Deficient; the coal mines and railroads drawing laborers from the farm. *Carroll*: Abundant, such as it is. *Claiborne*: Usually abundant, but a scarcity for two years occasioned by public works in the vicinity. *Cocke*: Scarce; gone to mines, railroads, mills, etc., for higher wages. *Crockett*: We can command sufficient labor for any emergency. *Davidson*: Probably a normal condition; neither abundant nor scarce. *De Kalb*: A sufficient supply. *Dyer*: There is a scarcity, particularly through the spring and summer months. The colored people are moving to the cities and towns. *Franklin*: Day laborers are abundant, but those by the month are rather scarce. *Giles*: Abundant as share laborers or croppers, but scarce as hired laborers. *Grainger*: In demand. Railroad building in this county takes many laborers from the farm. *Hardeman*: Scarce. *Haywood*: Plentiful on account of high rents, together with the credit system and inefficiency in farming. *Jefferson*: Abundant in this county. No manufactures or public works of any note to draw them off. *Knox*: The supply is deficient, caused by larger wages being offered by mines, railroads, and manufactures. *Lawrence*: Laborers are in excess of the demand, except during the harvest season. *McNairy*: Supply about equal to the demand. *Macon*: A sufficient supply. *Monroe*: Deficient supply; public works offer better wages than farmers can afford to pay. *Putnam*: They are abundant, because of the poorer class and in needy circumstances. *Robert-*

son: Rather scarce and of low grade. The young men of energy go west for cheap land and free schools, or to the cities and towns. The colored population are also drifting to the cities and towns. *Rutherford*: Notwithstanding numbers of young men have left the county and gone to work on railroads, and quite a number of families, both black and white, have gravitated to the cities and towns, yet no scarcity of labor has been felt in this county as yet. The reason for this lies in the fact that the acreage of cotton planted is annually decreasing, while that of grain and grass is increasing. Less labor is needed as cotton production decreases. *Sumner*: Supply is ample, except through the planting and harvesting season. *Trousdale*: Supply abundant. *Wayne*: Reasonably plentiful. *Williamson*: No scarcity of farm laborers. *Wilson*: Many idlers and tramps. The low price of farm products prevents farmers paying high wages. *Unicoi*: Rather scarce, on account of the demand for labor in the manufacture of iron. *Carter*: Sufficient for the demand. *Cheatham*: Scarce; the majority rent and crop on shares. *Roane*: Very abundant, because so little is being done at public works to draw them away. *Sequatchie*: Plentiful just now, because of the suspension of business on public works. *Scott*: Scarce. There are four mines and a large number of mills in this county and they, being able to pay high rates of wages, keep the laborers employed. *Hamblen*: Good, reliable laborers very scarce. *Perry*: Abundant. *Rhea*: Abundant. *Moore*: Sufficient for the demand. *Fentress*: Insufficient, timber industry employing the laborers. *Lake*: Scarce, but I am unable to explain the cause. *Tipton*: Rather scarce at seasons of hoeing and picking cotton. *Decatur*: Scarce. *Grundy*: Farm laborers are abundant, on account of a general failure this year of public works. *Hancock*: Farm laborers abundant. *Johnson*: Not plenty; many persons leaving for other industries, which pay better wages. *Lauderdale*: Good laborers are scarce. The better class can make better wages at mills, lumber business, railroads, etc. *Overtown*: About equal to the demand. *White*: Scarce; many engaged in other industries, such as coal-mining and lumbering, and others are too indolent to work. *Anderson*: Sufficient for all ordinary demands, but not always first class. *Bradley*: Not abundant, on account of the close proximity of public works. *Greene*: Tobacco-growing has so increased of late years that the supply of farm hands is scarce. *McMinn*: Scarce; farmers are too poor to hire to any extent and railroads take the laborers. *Madison*: A plentiful supply of inferior hands, but good laborers rather scarce. *Marion*: Not very abundant. *Shelby*: Good, reliable farm hands are scarce; quite a number of negroes have gone to Oklahoma and some to Liberia.

WEST VIRGINIA.—*Hardy*: Good hands are scarce, but there are about enough of one sort or another to do our farm work. A smaller number would be sufficient if they were better workers. *Monroe*: Scarce, owing to the higher prices paid on public works. *Wood*: Scarce. Many are engaged in railroad works and in the cities. *Hampshire*: A reasonably continuous supply. *Barbour*: Abundant. *Jefferson*: Supply always short in busy season, owing to demand for labor on canals and railroads. *Marion*: Very scarce. *Braxton*: Scarce. The labor interest demands a large number, as also does the building of railroads through the county. *Wayne*: Supply equal to demand. *Tucker*: Scarce. Public works create the unusual demand. *Berkeley*: Have been abundant, but are now rather scarce on account of higher prices paid on railroads and other public works, and in factories, etc. *Brooke*: Sufficient for demand. *Grant*: Not in excess of demand. *Lincoln*: Supply deficient, owing to demand on public works recently opened up. *Morgan*: Supply deficient, owing to demand on public works. *Upshur*: Scarce, owing to number employed on public works. *Wyoming*: Rather scarce, as better wages can be made in lumbering or mining. *Preston*: Abundant; lower wages now being paid on public works. *Clay*: Scarce; other employments offer better wages than a farmer can pay. *Fayette*: Very scarce. Many laborers seek employment in the coal mines. *Mason*: Abundant except for a few days in harvest. *Monongalia*: Scarce, owing to coal and oil development. *Pleasants*: Scarce, owing to operations in drilling for oil throughout this section. *Gilmer*:

Scarce, owing to better wages being paid by lumbermen. *Jackson*: No excess. *Pendleton*: Supply deficient; better wages being paid for railroad work. *Wirt*: Ordinarily abundant. *Greenbrier*: Scarce. Many engaged upon public works. *Summers*: Very scarce. Lumbermen and sawmills employ many hands. *Marshall*: Scarce; better wages being paid in mills and factories. *Ohio*: Fully equal to demand. *Tyler*: Plenty. *Mineral*: Supply deficient on account of mining interests and the many public enterprises along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. *Harrison*: Sufficient for demand. *Doddridge*: Supply deficient. Railroads and other industries pay higher wages. *Raleigh*: Supply about equal to demand. *Randolph*: Scarce in consequence of lumbering and railroad building.

KENTUCKY.—*Breckinridge*: Abundant. *Calloway*: Plentiful. *Carlisle*: Supply equal to demand, except occasionally in the busy seasons. *Carroll*: Scarce. The majority prefer to rent land and raise a crop of tobacco, though it frequently happens that the crop fails to pay the laborer as much as his wages for the year would amount to. *Fayette*: Steady, reliable hands very scarce. Laborers congregate in the towns. The tillage of land is being rapidly reduced in consequence of this condition of affairs and a larger area put in grass each year, including lands that under proper cultivation would yield enormous crops. *Gallatin*: Sufficient for demand. *Garrard*: Rather scarce. *Greenup*: There is always work enough for every available hand during the spring, summer, and fall, but in winter the supply is in excess. *Henderson*: The usual number on hand, but of inferior class. *Kenton*: Rather scarce, owing to railroad work and improvements in neighboring cities. *Lincoln*: Abundant. *McLean*: Scarce. A large number find employment in lumber mills, stove factories, etc., where wages are better. *Bell*: Supply abundant, except when public works create an unusual demand. At such times they are scarce. *Bath*: Abundant. *Daviess*: Abundant, except at unusually busy times. This is caused by the difficulty of getting negroes to leave the towns and go to work upon the farm. *Bracken*: Farm labor is scarce. All want to crop on the shares, owing to the high price of tobacco. *Nelson*: About the same as in former years. White laborers are more numerous each year. *Hardin*: Abundant, except for a short time in special seasons, as in harvest for a few days. *Menifee*: Abundant. *Bourbon*: Sufficient for all purposes, but of a very inferior kind. *Hickman*: Plenty. *Jefferson*: Supply and demand about equal. *Adair*: Sufficient for demand. *Simpson*: Supply reasonably good, but gradually diminishing. *Estill*: Scarce; engaged on railroad work. *Livingston*: Supply and demand about equal. *Martin*: Abundant. *Franklin*: Scarce, many negroes having left the county for Kansas a year ago. *Mercer*: A fair supply. *Jackson*: Abundant. No demand for labor except on the farm. *Woodford*: Good reliable labor is scarce. There are plenty of the hand-to-mouth class, who work only when compelled by necessity. *La Rue*: Abundant, but generally inefficient. *Caldwell*: Plenty of labor, owing to low prices for farm products. *Anderson*: Abundant; cause, want of enterprise on the part of our farmers. *Barren*: Supply abundant. *Boyle*: Day laborers in abundance. *Boone*: Enough for ordinary occasions. *Christian*: Abundant. A large negro population supplies all demands. *Clay*: Scarce, as a consequence of the opening up of mineral regions. *Elliott*: Supply deficient. *Henry*: Good farm labor is scarce. Indisposition to work is the main cause. *Robertson*: Supply about equal to demand. *Rowan*: Farm hands scarce, owing to demand on public works. *Shelby*: Supply gradually growing smaller. *Webster*: Labor is abundant as to numbers, but very unreliable as to quality. The negroes will not work on the farm if they can live in any other way. *Morgan*: Supply deficient. *Pulaski*: Abundant, owing to scarcity of money. *Washington*: Deficient, owing to preference for living in towns. *Oldham*: Supply wholly inadequate to demand, and quality very poor. *McCracken*: Scarce. Wages very low. *Harlan*: Scarce. Log and lumber men pay better wages. *Green*: Abundant. *Campbell*: Supply deficient the year round. Many young men that formerly hired out now rent ground and cultivate a tobacco crop for themselves. *Grayson*: Plenty. *Johnson*: Supply deficient, owing to the

low prices paid. *Magoffin*: Abundant, but very lazy and inefficient. *Perry*: Supply fully equal to demand. *Clark*: A scarcity prevails during the summer and fall, many being engaged in working their own tobacco crops; at other times supply and demand are about equal. *Allen*: A full supply, but of very inferior class; good hands are scarce. *Carter*: Scarce. Coal mines and railroads employ all surplus hands. *Fleming*: Sufficient for all demands, but many show no inclination for work. *Grant*: Usually very abundant. *Lee*: Scarce; most of our young men employed on railroads or in sawmills. *Marion*: An abundant supply, but of very inefficient quality. *Meade*: Supply and demand about equal. *Owsley*: Scarce. Plenty of idlers strolling around, who will not work at any price. *Trimble*: Sufficient for all demands. *Wayne*: Supply about equal to demand. *Trigg*: Supply deficient, the men preferring towns and cities. *Pendleton*: Abundant; farmers have not the money to pay for the necessary labor. *Russell*: Scarce, in consequence of the demand for hands in the lumber trade and in the stave factories. *Clinton*: Abundant for several years past. *Casey*: Scarce throughout the year. *Hopkins*: Supply abundant. *Marshall*: In fair supply. *Scott*: Sufficient for demand. *Edmonson*: Plenty of labor and to spare.

OHIO.—*Putnam*: About the usual number; the greatest demand is in wheat harvest and at corn cutting. *Butler*: A scarcity exists, owing chiefly to farmers' sons seeking work in the cities. *Perry*: Abundant. *Harrison*: Hardly sufficient in numbers and of inferior quality; some working on railroads and some seeking professions. *Stark*: Not very abundant but no great scarcity. *Washington*: Rather scarce from the fact of many seeking work in factories and mechanical employments, and many others being employed in Government works on the Muskingum River improvements. *Guernsey*: Generally abundant. *Adams*: About as abundant as usual. *Hancock*: Abundant, but not in excess. *Medina*: Those who work by the month are growing scarcer each year, for the reason that manufacturers offer better wages than farmers can afford to pay. *Van Wert*: Abundant. *Ashland*: Very scarce; the young men attending school, while older ones are engaged in shops, etc.; none seem to be contented with farm work or wages. *Clermont*: All good hands readily get employment. *Ottawa*: Supply equal to demand. *Lorain*: Very scarce in haymaking and harvest; many find employment on the lake and on railroads. *Hamilton*: Scarce, owing to demand from the city and manufacturing districts, which give steady work and better wages. *Auglaize*: Plentiful; owing to low price of products the farmer can not afford to hire and sell on the market. *Greene*: Scarce near towns and factories; plentiful away from these places. *Jackson*: Supply somewhat deficient, better prices being paid for mining and shipping coal. *Lawrence*: Sufficient for demand. *Sandusky*: Scarce; laborers are seeking the manufacturing towns, where they can have employment the year round. *Tuscarawas*: A fair supply. *Vinton*: Rather scarce. *Clark*: Laborers are restless and disposed to seek other occupations, feeling that farmers do not pay them enough, while the farmers feel that they can not afford higher wages. *Columbiana*: Scarce at harvest time; men get more steady work and better pay at other occupations. *Delaware*: Day laborers are scarce; within the last few years there is a tendency to become renters, the depression in farm products not justifying the farmer in paying the prices demanded. *Erie*: Scarce; this is a lake county and many men find occupation on the water as sailors or fishermen. *Fairfield*: Supply deficient, owing to the demand on public works, gas drilling, etc. *Fulton*: Very scarce; cause, a general tendency to drift to towns and cities for permanent employment. *Geauga*: About equal to demand. *Jefferson*: Scarce, as a consequence of the numerous manufacturing industries in the Ohio Valley. *Lake*: Rather scarce; enough so to advance the price of wages materially. *Mahoning*: Scarce; so many leaving for the cities or to work in shops where they get steady occupation the year round. *Portage*: Help scarce; laborers want higher wages than the farmer can afford to pay, so they are seeking other employment. *Ross*: Sometimes the supply is abundant and at other times deficient when most wanted. *Trumbull*: Scarce, and growing more so every year, in consequence of the growing preference for factory

work, and emigration to the South and West. *Wyandot*: About sufficient for demand; wages somewhat lower than last year. *Holmes*: Supply deficient, as a consequence of low wages and greater inducements in the city. *Knox*: Supply about equal to demand. *Logan*: No excess. *Warren*: Scarce; farming interests have been dull and men have sought other employments. *Cuyahoga*: Scarce, for the reason that the factories employ so many hands in this vicinity. *Highland*: Abundant. *Huron*: Very scarce at last harvest, owing to the number employed on railroads. *Summit*: Good hands scarce, the long hours demanded being chiefly the cause of scarcity; some farmers expect from fourteen to sixteen hours work from their help. *Williams*: Laborers are plentiful, but farmers have not the means to hire. *Brown*: Supply and demand about equal. *Carroll*: About sufficient for the usual demand. *Meigs*: Laborers have been scarce for several years past, as many are employed on public works. *Paulding*: In good supply, but not overabundant. *Wood*: Scarce, better wages being paid in the oil fields. *Defiance*: Abundant. *Miami*: Supply fully equal to demand. *Muskingum*: Supply sufficient for all necessary demands, especially when 2 or 3 miles distant to railway stations. *Clinton*: Supply deficient. *Belmont*: Supply about equal to demand. *Darke*: Farm hands are plentiful, but they want bigger wages than the farmer, in view of the low prices of farm products and live stock is justified in paying. *Henry*: Enough for ordinary demand. *Hoeking*: No surplus, so many preferring to work in the towns and in factories. *Morgan*: A slight deficiency, due to the demand for labor on river improvements. *Union*: Abundant.

MICHIGAN.—*Kalamazoo*: Not abundant, owing to the general indisposition for such work. *Branch*: A fair supply. *Huron*: Not very abundant, nearly every man having a small farm of his own. *Kent*: Very scarce, owing to the general preference for cities, manufactories, and street-car service. *Jackson*: Supply deficient, our young men of good habits seeking employment in cities. *St. Joseph*: Good men find all the work they can possibly do. *Clare*: Abundant, owing to the discontinuance of lumbering operations. *Ionia*: Scarce; good farm laborers seeking other employments; it is very difficult to get help of any kind during the busy seasons even at good wages. *Midland*: Scarce, as the lumbering interest gives employment the year round and pays fair wages. *Monroe*: Good help scarce; young men prefer going farther West or to the cities. *Tuscola*: Supply generally equal to demand. *Benzie*: None to spare. *Berrien*: Scarce, young men seeking occupation in the cities. *Grand Traverse*: Deficient, owing to the fact that there is great demand in the lumbering business at higher wages. *Ingham*: In spring help may readily be secured by the year, though it is sometimes scarce in the busiest seasons. *Iosco*: Scarce; nearly all employed in sawmills or on the docks. Our farmers either exchange work or pay big wages. *Kalkaska*: Abundant, the lumbering interest being on the decline. *Manistee*: Scarce during the season for gathering bark; plentiful at other times. *Isabella*: Deficient in supply caused by large numbers going West, and others being engaged in the lumbering business. *Marquette*: Scarce, owing to the demand for miners. *Muskegon*: Scarce. The sawmills pay better wages and keep more regular hours. *Oceana*: Plentiful; the lumbering interest being exhausted. *Ottawa*: Supply about equal to demand. *Sanilac*: No scarcity. *Allegan*: A reasonable supply during the summer, but abundant in winter, when wages are 25 per cent lower. *Genesee*: Exceedingly scarce last fall; men gone West and to the lumbering regions. *Mackinac*: Scarce, in consequence of the great demand in the cedar and lumber camps. *Shiawassee*: Very scarce. *Van Buren*: A fair supply. *Bay*: Comparatively scarce, owing to the preference for work in the cities. *Charlevoix*: Scarce; transient labor in demand for lumbering. *Gladwin*: A fair supply in summer, as there is no lumbering at that time. *Wexford*: Not abundant, as lumbermen pay better wages than the farmer can afford. *Cheboygan*: Scarce, owing to the predominance of the lumber interest in this section. *Barry*: Scarce. *Missaukee*: Plentiful. *Menominee*: Scarce, owing to better wages paid for mining and lumbering. *Manitou*: Scarce, owing to better wages paid on fishing and sailing boats, and in the woods. *Leelanaw*: Rather scarce. *Any other*

work seems to be more desirable than farming. *Ontonagon*: Not abundant, owing to the demand in lumber camps. *Lapeer*: Somewhat deficient; men prefer more popular work in towns or cities. *Autrim*: Scarce; lumbermen pay better wages than the farmer can afford. *Clinton*: Not very abundant. *Eaton*: Scarce during a great portion of the year; many working in factories. *Gratiot*: Supply and demand about equal. *Hillsdale*: Scarce. *Lenaawee*: No surplus at any time; very difficult to get proper help in haymaking and harvest. *Oakland*: Scarce. *Otsego*: Plentiful.

INDIANA.—*Knox*: Deficient supply, because of the tendency of young men to flock into cities and towns. *Henry*: A surplus of laborers, due partly to the great number of farming implements and labor-saving machines. *Jasper*: Abundant. *Owen*: Plenty. *Madison*: In active demand; the towns in the natural gas belt are growing rapidly and give employment to many, while the good crops and fair prices of last year have stimulated farming interests. *Tippecanoe*: Scarce, owing to great demand for laborers in the gas belt. *Gibson*: Rather scarce, as public works pay higher wages; supply in excess of demand, as many of our young men go to Illinois or to towns to find work. *Jennings*: Very abundant, but generally indisposed for work. *La Porte*: Supply deficient at the times when laborers are most needed, owing to higher wages and more steady employment in factories. *Harrison*: Sufficient for demand. *Kosciusko*: Not very abundant; many laborers prefer to work in shops, where they find employment the year round. *Hendricks*: Somewhat scarce in harvest. *Scott*: Supply in excess of demand, owing to the great number of foreigners. *Spencer*: Abundant during a part of the year, but scarce in the fall; as a rule the supply is about equal to the demand. *Grant*: Plenty at the prices stated. *Lagrange*: Enough, but no over-supply; but for the perfection of labor-saving machinery supply would be entirely insufficient. *Putnam*: About equal to demand. *Hancock*: In fair supply. *Perry*: Scarce, owing to demand in the lumber trade. *Switzerland*: Sufficient for demand. *Union*: About enough to do all the work required. *Hamilton*: Abundant at present. *Boone*: Supply abundant. *Franklin*: Comparatively scarce; our growing towns demand a greater number of employés. *Lake*: Somewhat scarcer than usual, owing to the demand for labor in and about Chicago. *Martin*: Sufficient for demand, but no surplus. *Abundant*. *Ripley*: Supply short; higher wages paid elsewhere. *Vigo*: Abundant. *La Porte*: Deficient in busiest seasons, owing to higher wages and steadier employment in factories. *Shelby*: The demand is usually supplied by our citizens or resident laborers. *Bartholomew*: Demand good and fairly supplied. *Fulton*: Plenty. *Greene*: Supply fully equal to demand. *Jackson*: Ample for all demands. No public improvements in progress to attract laborers. *Marion*: Good help is scarce; inferior class plenty; the city of Indianapolis offers many openings for first-class men at better wages than the farmer can afford to pay. *Pike*: Supply about equal to demand. *St. Joseph*: Scarcity, due to large manufacturing towns in the vicinity. *Steuben*: Somewhat scarce, owing to emigration West. *Sullivan*: Scarce for a year past; employed in coal mines or in factories. *Vermilion*: Enough to reasonably supply all demands.

ILLINOIS.—*Mason*: A scarcity during haymaking, harvest, and corn-gathering, but at other times there is plenty for all purposes. *Coles*: Supply deficient, owing to the tendency to seek other employments. *Edwards*: Just about equal to demand. *Greene*: Plenty to fill all demands. *Brown*: Good farm laborers are now scarcer than was ever known. New industries springing up have created an unusual demand. *Gallatin*: All classes readily secured, with but little change in the past few years as regards wages paid. *Grundy*: Scarce just now, as many expect to get employment at the Columbian Exposition. *Stark*: In unusual demand throughout the season, owing chiefly to the very heavy crops. *Schuyler*: Comparatively abundant, as fair living wages are now paid for services. *Washington*: Scarce, owing to the fact that better wages are paid in the cities, in factories, etc. *Fulton*: Good hands are scarce and have always been. *Calhoun*: Scarce. *Cumberland*: Usually a fair supply, except in harvest. *Jersey*: Demand light, in consequence of improved machinery. *Richland*:

No deficiency. *Kankakee*: Scarcity, due to railroad improvements. *Jo Daviess*: Scarce; large numbers employed on public works. *Pope*: A slight deficiency. *Hardin*: About equal to demand. *Clinton*: Scarce, as farmer's sons show a decided tendency for city life. With twice the number of laborers the county could easily double its crops. *Tazewell*: About sufficient for demand. Most of our farmers exchange work with one another in harvest and other pressing times. *Lee*: Scarce, owing to preference for factory work. *Scott*: Equal to demand. *Woodford*: Demand not fully supplied during corn-husking. *Lasalle*: Scarce during the fall; abundant in the summer. *Cook*: Labor difficult to obtain, particularly transient. Men prefer shop work with regular pay and shorter hours. *Rock Island*: Scarce. *Christian*: Scarce from several reasons; farm products are so low that the farmer can not afford to pay such wages as other classes do. *Pike*: Supply short; many have gone west to Washington, Kansas, and Oklahoma. *McDonough*: A fair supply. *Douglas*: Plenty of farm hands and of fair ability at prices stated. *Menard*: Reasonably plentiful. *Ogle*: A scarcity, owing principally to the preference for working in shops. *Pulaski*: Abundant at this season, but usually scarce in harvest time. *Putnam*: Supply deficient; not enough for gathering the immense crop of corn. *Saline*: Supply usually about equal to demand. *Stephenson*: Our farmers have to go to the towns and cities for help and put up with such as they can get. *Union*: Somewhat scarce. *Bond*: Very scarce; many day laborers going to the cities for higher wages. *Effingham*: Plentiful. *Jasper*: Sufficient for demand. *Lake*: Scarcity, due to preference for city work and wages. *Massac*: Supply in excess of demand. *Wabash*: Number deficient throughout the past year. *Ford*: Supply growing scarce, owing to preference for cities, where better wages are paid. *Knox*: Supply equal to demand. *Whiteside*: Scarce, in consequence of demand on public works in neighboring city. *Henderson*: Scarce in harvest and through corn-gathering, the cause generally being an indisposition for hard work. *Edgar*: Generally abundant, except occasionally in the rush of corn-cutting and husking. *Jackson*: Scarce during the past year, laborers being employed in numbers on public works. *McLean*: Was scarce during corn-husking, but is now abundant. *Peoria*: A fair supply. *St. Clair*: There is a sufficient number for demand. *Perry*: Plenty. *Green*: German immigrants generally furnish all the help required. *Bureau*: Supply deficient; men going into the towns and cities or farther West. *Cass*: Supply equal to necessary demands. *Champaign*: No scarcity; plenty of young men to meet the wants of the community. *Fayette*: Scarce; the price of farm labor is lower than that paid in most other pursuits. In the hiring of hands who board themselves, a house, garden, and firewood are often furnished them, which accounts for the slight difference in wages with or without board. *Livingston*: Very scarce. The rising generation flock to the cities, seeming to think that farming is a losing business. *Macon*: Supply barely equal to the demand. Great numbers go to the cities during the winter. *Moultrie*: Scarcer than usual. *Clay*: Abundant. *Winnebago*: Very scarce, better wages being paid for day labor by manufacturers and builders. *Piatt*: Very scarce, especially in corn-husking, at that time being in great demand and often unobtainable. *Sangamon*: Supply deficient. Farmers' sons show a growing inclination to leave the farm at an early age for the town or city or to work for themselves. *Shelby*: Very scarce. As a rule our farmers help each other. *Will*: Very scarce. *Henry*: Supply deficient. Young men are fleeing from the farm to other pursuits in which they expect to do better. *Vermilion*: The usual supply. *Clark*: Deficient, the majority going where better wages are paid. *Iroquois*: Sufficient for ordinary demands. *Kendall*: Not abundant. *Logan*: Rather scarce. *McHenry*: No complaint of any scarcity. *Mercer*: Scarce in corn husking. *Morgan*: Plentiful. *Warren*: About equal to demand.

WISCONSIN.—*Walworth*: Scarce and high, for the reason that railroads and manufacturers offer better wages and exact fewer hours of work. *St. Croix*: Scarce; men going to the Dakotas. *Trempealeau*: Scarce the past season; men seeking other occupations. *Dodge*: A deficiency during harvest, thrashing, and corn-husking.

Iowa: Supply about equal to the demand. *Ozaukee*: Scarce. *Fond du Lac*: Supply short for several years past. *Rock*: Scarce, owing to general preference for other work—mining, lumbering, sawmills, etc. *Chippewa*: In fair supply. *Sauk*: Scarce, railroad work taking many of the most active young men. *Sheboygan*: Deficient. The average young man dislikes hard work and simple, plain fare, and prefers city life and luxuries. *Washburn*: Abundant. *Brown*: Generally scarce, owing to the demand for labor in the lumber and iron districts. *Racine*: Not abundant. There is a great disinclination to farm work if anything else can be found. *Ashland*: Abundant. Our clearings are still small, and farmers' sons are offering their services. *Buffalo*: Deficient; laborers prefer city work and hours. *Columbia*: Supply deficient; our young men find better openings in the cities or on railroads. *Dane*: Not plentiful. The only reason seems to be a growing dislike to farm work. *Douglas*: No demand. *Grant*: Scarce; prices too low. *Kewaunee*: Supply equal to demand. *Lacross*: Scarce, owing chiefly to the demand for help in sawmills, etc. *Lincoln*: Nearly all of our farmers own a homestead of their own. *Marathon*: Scarce. All desirable hands are employed by the lumbermen at from \$26 to \$35 per month, with board. *Taylor*: Scarce in summer, owing to the demand for labor in sawmills. *Door*: Always scarce in this region. Sawmills pay about the same wages for much shorter hours. *Eau Claire*: A fair supply. *Vernon*: Not abundant. Men go west and get better wages. *Clark*: Deficient. Many gone west for higher wages. *Lafayette*: Deficient. Good help commands good wages always. *Outagamie*: Not abundant. Other industries can afford to pay more than the farmer, and our young men prefer city work or lumbering. Most of our hired help consists of foreigners. *Winnebago*: Not abundant; too near the city; men prefer work on streets or in factories. *Juneau*: Supply just about sufficient for demand. *Richland*: Enough for all demands. *Wau-paca*: Generally scarce; many of the best hands engaged in lumbering. *Pierce*: Not abundant. Dakota drains this section. *Portage*: Supply and demand equal. *Price*: Scarce; a large number go west to Dakota. *Burnett*: Scarce; lumbering business preferred. *Crawford*: Scarce, better wages being paid both east and west of this locality. *Dunn*: Plentiful just now, but was very scarce during the fall. *Forest*: Scarce, owing to demand for labor in sawmills, lumbering, and railroad business. *Jackson*: Much scarcer than usual and rates much higher. *Milwaukee*: In fair supply. *Oconto*: Deficient, owing to shorter hours being required in sawmills and factories. *Waukesha*: Supply not equal to demand. *Barron*: Supply deficient, as a consequence of the demand for lumbermen and various city enterprises, which pay higher wages. *Manitowoc*: Scarce during the harvest season.

MINNESOTA.—*Winona*: Scarce; higher wages paid by railroads, mills, and manufacturing. *Fairbault*: Very scarce. *Kanabec*: Abundant. *Lesueur*: Sufficient supply; no margin. *Nobles*: Few farm laborers, as nearly everyone works his own farm or is a renter. Difficult to obtain help when it is needed. *Pipestone*: There was plenty of help, but higher wages were demanded on account of the big crop. *Steele*: Sufficient to supply all demands. *Wilkin*: Somewhat deficient the past season, owing, probably, to increased demand in other industries. *Cass*: Deficient; laborers are emigrating to the West and manufacturing interests are coming in. *Bigstone*: All classes of laborers scarce; unusual development of the country the cause. Farmers all board their hands. *Carlton*: Very few farmers in country, and they mostly do their own work. *Dakota*: Scarce; they go to North Dakota and Washington, where they get higher wages. *Freeborn*: Never knew help so hard to get; cause unknown. *Lincoln*: Rather scarce; low wages the cause. *Morrison*: Deficient, owing to opportunities afforded by cheap lands to work for oneself and the demand for labor further west. *Polk*: General scarcity of farm hands during harvest and thrashing. *Renville*: Deficient; generally drift to cities and railroad service. *St. Louis*: Abundant. *Todd*: Supply and demand about equal. *Wabasha*: Good, reliable help is scarce and can command 20 per cent more than figures given. Men like to work in crowds, and as most of our farmers keep but

one man, the help goes to the pinery. *Watonwan*: Very scarce and wages higher than for ten years. The manufactories have drawn the farm laborers to the towns and cities. *Wright*: Just about a supply this year. *Yellow Medicine*: There has been a deficiency since harvest for thrashing and other fall work. The constant flow of immigration from Norway and Sweden makes the month's wages low. *Grant*: Abundant. *Jackson*: Scarce. Most of the laboring men have land of their own. Wages have been higher this year than usual, on account of scarcity of help. *Swift*: Abundant, owing to an influx from other States and immigration from Sweden and Norway. *Chippewa*: In harvest and thrashing deficient, in consequence of large crop. *Crow Wing*: Deficient supply; in the spring the men are on the river driving sawlogs; in the winter, in the lumber camps, logging; in the summer and fall, harvesting and thrashing in Dakota. *Houston*: Very deficient; disposed to seek employment in cities and on public works. *Kandiyohi*: Deficient supply; cause supposed to be the general resumption of business of all kinds. *Kittson*: Generally scarce, most of population being engaged in agriculture. There was the greatest scarcity of help this year in harvest, and, on that account, there are thousands of acres of grain standing in the shock to-day in a foot of snow. *Murray*: Have been deficient this fall, on account of so much grain to handle. *Washington*: Supply about equal to demand. *Hubbard*: Deficient supply. The adjoining States of Dakota pay better wages and give more employment. *Martin*: Deficient supply. *Nicollet*: Deficient from 1st of July till November. Double the number available could have found employment. Cause unknown, though large crops required an additional number. *Sherburne*: Supply sufficient. *Wadena*: Supply was ample till about harvest time, when many went to Dakota. *Millelacs*: Abundant. *Goodhue*: Supply hardly equal to demand; at times of urgency rather deficient; cause, demand for men in cities and with steam thrashers, etc. *Rice*: Farm laborers are scarce only in harvesting and thrashing. Self-binding machinery reduces the demand. *McLeod*: Scarce the past season; can not account for it. *Pine*: Good hands scarce, owing to close proximity of sawmills, pineries, and woods work in general. *Olmsted*: Very scarce, the railroads taking nearly all the available help in the vicinity. *Pope*: No scarcity this season. *Lac qui Parle*: Very scarce; have commanded \$2 per day since August 1. *Redwood*: Very scarce; every man can buy a farm with easy payments and work for himself. *Scott*: Deficient, laborers preferring to work in the cities. *Ottertail*: Quite deficient. *Norman*: Deficient, on account of big crop and late season. *Fillmore*: More abundant than in the last few years, on account of the return of many families from Dakota. *Rock*: Very scarce; cause unknown. *Sibley*: Abundant; good machinery and plenty of family help. *Stevens*: Good farm laborers are scarce. Such men can do better by obtaining farms of their own. *Traverse*: Deficient, owing to the unusual harvest throughout the Northwest.

IOWA.—*Appanoose*: Scarce; our best laborers seek employment in the mines. *Audubon*: Deficient supply, on account of increased demand caused by better prices for farm products. *Buchanan*: Scarce; suppose they think they can do better at something else. According to my experience the price of labor is fixed by the supply and demand. *Cass*: Scarcity; cause unknown. *Dubuque*: Deficient; nearly all are going to Minnesota or where there are long harvests and higher wages. *Guthrie*: Rather scarce in time of harvest; for general farm work, a fair supply. *Hamilton*: Deficient, partly because they want to farm for themselves and partly because of the demand for laborers in the cities. *Hancock*: Deficient supply, on account of the abundant crop. *Ida*: Rather scarce. *Jefferson*: Supply sufficeint. *Montgomery*: Quite plenty. *Muscatine*: Deficient. The introduction of improved farm machinery has reduced the demand for laborers to such an extent that they have gone to the cities. *Polk*: Great scarcity, on account of higher wages in other callings. *Sac*: No real scarcity exists. *Scott*: Scarce; few farmers are able to keep married men on the farm, and must depend on the single ones; then, the majority of laborers are German, and they prefer employment in factories and in the cities. *Tama*: Very

scarce; probably due to the increased demand for laborers in the manufactories; harvest help only needed in haying and corn-husking, and help for husking is paid 2½ cents per bushel. *Wapello*: A surplus of men here wanting work. *Webster*: Deficient supply; manufacturing and mining apparently the cause. *Cerro Gordo*: Scarce; can't account for it. *Howard*: As a rule, is sufficient in supply. *Marshall*: A deficiency caused by a disposition to be in the towns and cities. *Mills*: About sufficient for the demand, except a little scarcity in corn gathering season. *Adair*: Deficient supply; small farmers prefer to rest after doing their own work rather than work for neighbors. *Benton*: Deficient supply; many leaving for other States to take up homesteads, and others going to the towns. *Henry*: Supply about equal to demand. *Iowa*: Rather scarce; more building than usual at Victor, and many have work there. *Keokuk*: Rather scarce. *Kossuth*: Very scarce; the good men soon buy a tract of wild land and work for themselves. *Lucas*: Farm hands not in excess; other lines of labor offer greater inducements. *Osceola*: Very scarce the past season; an unusual demand for them on account of a very large crop of small grain. *Woodbury*: About enough to supply the demand. *Butler*: Deficient supply for the last five or six years; the young men go west and the bulk of laborers are German immigrants. *Carroll*: A trifle scarce this year. Many young persons go farther west to take up land for themselves. *Des Moines*: Scarce because of abundant machinery, which enables farmers to do their own work. *Jones*: Plenty of laborers by the year or month, but few to be had by the day. *O'Brien*: About the supply needed, except in harvest; extra men very scarce. *Page*: Labor hard to get in haying and corn-gathering; the twine binders make harvesting an easy job. *Pocahontas*: Good farm help is scarce; four-fifths of the people in this county are working for themselves; there is great need for a large supply of good farm help in the growing season, at least eight months of the year. *Poweshiek*: Have been scarce; Young America wants to go alone as soon as he can claim majority; farming doesn't pay; with machinery one man can get in more grain than he can get off. *Van Buren*: Scarce, because of the building of a railroad from Madison to Des Moines. *Cedar*: About equal to demand. *Clarke*: A fair supply. *Clay*: Supply deficient. *Crawford*: Just a fair average. *Davis*: Abundant. *Dickinson*: Very scarce; too many hunters and lazy people. *Harrison*: Deficient supply this season; all seem to have enterprise enough to start in business for themselves. *Madison*: Supply equal to demand. *Marion*: Generally sufficient; sometimes short for harvesting and corn-gathering. *Louisa*: No scarcity. *Lyon*: Supply rather deficient. The heavy crops caused an unusual demand for laborers, and this demand increased wages for day laborers in thrashing and husking nearly 50 per cent. *Buena Vista*: Deficient supply in summer and too abundant in winter. *Grundy*: Sufficiently abundant. *Plymouth*: Very scarce; cause unknown. *Hardin*: About equal to demand, but rather scarce in corn-picking time. *Greene*: Deficient during corn-husking because of the large crop. *Shelby*: Deficient. *Warren*: Scarce; so many go west for better wages. *Chickasaw*: Deficient; can assign no cause. *Union*: Supply about equal to demand. *Franklin*: A fair supply. *Pottawattamie*: Abundant till October and November; rather scarce in corn-picking. *Ringgold*: Scarce; prefer the towns and an idle life. *Story*: Hard to get a good, reliable man. *Clinton*: Supply equal to the demand. We do our own work mostly, with the help of improved machinery. *Bremer*: Scarce, the surplus having gone to a newer country. *Calhoun*: Very scarce; are realizing more on railroads. *Cherokee*: Generally enough. Owing to improvements in farm machinery not as many are required. *Delaware*: Scarce. *Monona*: Abundant, except during our prairie haying and corn-shucking. *Washington*: Sufficient for demand. *Wayne*: No scarcity, except a few days in hay harvest.

MISSOURI.—*Saline*: Abundant supply, except during harvest time. *Franklin*: Abundant, except during harvest. Some localities pay higher, according to nearness to market or shipping points. *Chariton*: No surplus, but plenty to do the work. *Barry*: Scarce, Special cause, very limited demand and better wages in mines,

Bollinger: Enough to supply demand, but indisposed to work at above wages on account of railroad hands and those on public works in the vicinity receiving more. *Caldwell*: Abundant in all classes. *Christian*: Supply and demand about equal. *Clark*: Very scarce; cause unknown. *Cooper*: Supply and demand about equal. *Grundy*: Supply and demand about equal. *Howard*: Deficient supply; scores of negro men, but they will not work. *Hickory*: Abundant supply, except during harvest. A good many young men went West during the spring months. Low prices for grain and stock compel farmers to pay a low price for labor. *Iron*: Farm hands are hard to get. Only the class that the railroads and mills will not have are left to live on the farm. Cheaper to buy labor-saving tools than to hire poor hands. *Linn*: About enough to supply the demand. *Livingston*: Abundant. *Lewis*: Very scarce, for lack of steady employment. *McDonald*: Supply sufficient. *Miller*: Abundant. *Mississippi*: Abundant. *Moniteau*: Enough to supply demand. *Pemiscot*: Deficient for the reason that we are not on a railroad and but few hands drift in. *Pettis*: Scarce in April, May, June, and July; plentiful the rest of the year. *Stone*: Abundant; not more than one-half employed in winter. *Sullivan*: Enough to supply the demand. *Taney*: Abundant. *Warren*: Supply about equal to demand. Very few leave the county for business. *Macon*: Supply equal to the demand. *Marion*: Rather scarce; many who formerly labored by the day or month are now croppers. *Ralls*: A little scarce on account of low prices. *Atchison*: Rather scarce; sometimes there are not enough to supply the demand. *Barton*: No scarcity. *Camden*: Abundant, for the reason that most of the farms are small and a portion of the farmers and their sons do not have sufficient work on their own farms. *Cass*: Supply equal to demand. *Clay*: Supply equal to demand. *Cole*: Supply about equal to demand. *Daviess*: A fair supply. *Jasper*: Common laborers are abundant; good, reliable ones scarce. *Johnson*: For the period of twelve months we have a normal supply. Part of the farm laborers seem to be nomadic—go and come. *Lincoln*: Sufficient to do the work at all times. *Madison*: A comparative scarcity on account of the close proximity to the lead mines and granite quarries. *Phelps*: Can get all the hands we need, except during harvest. *Platte*: Deficient; cause, indisposition to work. *Pulaski*: Scarce. Most hands have little homes of their own, which will pay them to work on better than the wages that farmers can pay. *Ray*: Sufficient to supply demand. *Shelby*: Plenty of hands, but hard to get. Some are willing idlers; could get work if they wanted it. *Vernon*: Just about enough to supply the demand. *Worth*: About equal to demand. *Harrison*: Medium supply. *Carroll*: Abundant. Many will not work except at extravagant wages. *Dallas*: A sufficiency. *Holt*: A fair supply. *Lafayette*: Comparatively scarce, on account of better wages in the mines and on ranges out West. *Montgomery*: Supply about equal to demand. *New Madrid*: Deficient supply on account of railroads paying more than farmers can afford. *Nodaway*: A constant drain of young men to the West has kept labor scarce and in demand. *Osage*: Supply and demand about equal. *Ozark*: Deficient supply; cause unknown. *Putnam*: Rather deficient. *Randolph*: Scarce. Preferring to live in the towns, where they can do job work. *Ripley*: Abundant. *Dade*: No scarcity; the farmers are supplied with machinery. *Benton*: Scarcity; young men go West for land and speculation. *St. Clair*: Plenty of hands; always idlers. *Perry*: Sufficient at present. The use of machinery at harvest lessens the demand for hands at that time, and for ordinary farm work there are usually enough for all demands. *Lawrence*: Very scarce, on account of the lead and zinc mines giving employment to so many at from \$1 to \$3 per day. *Buchanan*: Supply sufficient except during harvest, haying, and apple gathering. The supply of transient labor is becoming more urban yearly, the improvement of appliances for cultivation and harvesting having reduced the number required. The destruction of our forests, too, has been so nearly complete that there is no longer any work for the woodman. *Boone*: Poor ones plentiful, good ones scarce; good men soon acquire a competency and cease to be wage workers. *Cape Girardeau*:

eau: Day laborers on the farm in demand. *Ste. Genevieve*: Deficient; they go to public works, the lead mines, and glass factories. *Texas*: Plenty for all purposes. *Gentry*: No difficulty in obtaining help except in harvest time, when the demand is greater than the supply. *Jefferson*: Labor is plentiful at this season, owing to an abundant supply in the cities. *Shannon*: A fair supply for the demand. *Audrain*: Plenty. *Bates*: Very scarce. *Dunklin*: Scarce this year, on account of public works. *Greene*: Deficient, on account of better wages being paid in the cities and in the lead and zinc mines. *Henry*: About normal. *Laclede*: Deficient; many young men having gone to the West and South. *Monroe*: Plenty to supply the demand. *Oregon*: No scarcity; so many poor farmers who can't farm for themselves. *Pike*: Scarce, for the reason that farm work is mostly done by machinery. *Polk*: About equal to demand. *Reynolds*: Rather scarce, but we have no railroads, and as a result poor markets and poor wages. The lumbering business takes many of our farm hands. *St. Francois*: Scarcity at certain times, for instance in harvest, owing to the granite quarries. *Schuyler*: Plenty except in harvest, and then enough to save our crops. *Scotland*: Seems to be enough. Improved machinery does away with the necessity of so many. *Scott*: Abundant in winter; scarce in crop season. *Stoddard*: Sufficient for demand; no surplus.

KANSAS.—*Brown*: Comparatively scarce; cause unknown. Those available are not of the most desirable character; the average farm hand is not as competent as formerly. *Cherokee*: Supply fully up to all demands; the introduction of harvesting machines does away with nearly all extra help, and the use of other machinery tends the same way. The help generally hired is from corn planting to husking, about six months. *Douglas*: Abundant; colored labor is in excess of white. *Ellis*: Since commencement of harvest very scarce, nearly all having left the country except those having work of their own. *Ellsworth*: Scarce since the middle of June; more plentiful now, owing to increase of land in cultivation. Most young men are renting land for themselves, and but few new ones come to take their places. *Greenwood*: Abundant; too many men come West who are incompetent to do for themselves, and many have not the means to engage in farming. *Jefferson*: Scarce; young men go to the city and to the Indian Territory. *McPherson*: Scarce for two years past; many left three or four years since on account of poor crops and low wages. *Miami*: As a general thing, abundant. *Pawnee*: Scarce; in this locality there is nothing to do in the winter. Our supply of hands in former years came from the West; failure of crops there depopulated the country to some extent; hence the scarcity of laborers here. *Reno*: Scarce; the salt works need a large number of hands, and men would rather live in town at same wages. *Rush*: Abundance; immigration and the endeavor to get means to begin farming on their own account. *Saline*: Supply about equal to the demand, perhaps a little greater; no laborers employed without board. *Stafford*: A great scarcity during harvest, owing to the large amount of broom-corn harvested after wheat harvest. *Wabausee*: Supply just about equals demand. *Wyandotte*: A scarcity of first-class laborers. *Kingman*: Plenty at present, though through harvest they were scarce. Many young men went to the Indian Territory to take lands, and to Washington (State) because wages were better. *Logan*: Extremely scarce. *Ottawa*: Scarce during thrashing time, July and August, but plentiful the rest of the year. Very few employ help by the year on the farm. Several employ from one month to six months. A good hand will get \$18 per month for six months, after which he will make about the same a month for two or three months husking corn at 2½ cents per bushel if boarded, and 3 cents if he boards himself and finds his team. After the corn is gathered many hands are unemployed till spring work begins, in March and April. *Anderson*: Supply and demand well balanced. *Chautauqua*: Plenty for all demands. *Cheyenne*: Very scarce; employed building irrigation canals in our county. *Cowley*: Deficient, on account of emigration to other parts. *Edwards*: Sufficient for all needs. *Elk*: Abundant; many can not obtain work on account of poor crops and low prices. *Franklin*: Reasonable supply. *Hamilton*:

Sufficient supply. *Haskell*: Scarce; county sparsely settled and most people putting out crops for themselves. *Lyon*: Supply about equal to demand. *Marion*: Never so scarce as during the past summer. *Meade*: Since harvest scarce, and wages firm at \$20 per month. *Morris*: All the laborers we need. *Neosho*: Rather scarce at harvest time; many young men left for other localities. *Osborne*: Supply and demand about equal. *Rice*: Deficient supply; the failure of crops in 1890 caused laborers to seek employment elsewhere. *Scott*: Scarce; owing to thinly settled country and large acreage seeded by one man. *Thomas*: Scarce this season, owing to large acreage compared with inhabitants, the failure of last year's harvest, and the consequent removal of many of our citizens. *Sumner*: Plenty in the spring, but scarce in harvest thrashing; cause, but little corn planted, and the largest harvest ever known to take care of. *Washington*: Enough to supply demand; farmers hire but little; economy and retrenchment is the order of the day. *Sedgwick*: Abundant till this fall, when they have been in good demand. *Barber*: Very scarce this year; all farming for themselves; large crops. The surplus population moved away in time of crop failure. *Coffey*: Not much demand for laborers, on account of short crops; plenty of hands. *Finney*: Have been very scarce, owing to former light harvests; many having gone elsewhere for work. *Garfield*: Deficient; exodus to booming places. *Butler*: Just enough for all requirements; no oversupply. *Nemaha*: Abundance; cause, scarcity of land to rent. *Russell*: During the past summer labor has been abundant and laborers few. *Ford*: Laborers were plentiful except during harvest; deficient then on account of larger crops than ever before. *Lincoln*: Have always been scarce here; do not know the cause. *Cloud*: Comparatively scarce; caused by lack of steady employment. *Lane*: Plenty at present; scarce during harvest and thrashing. *Rawlins*: Have been very scarce this fall; every farmer has had so much to do at home that none could work out. *Leavenworth*: Scarce; nearness to large city, the mines, beef and pork packing establishments, railroad work, and opportunities for homes of their own are the causes. *Dickinson*: Help has been scarce this year and last; failure of crops in 1888 and 1890 the cause. *Stevens*: Very scarce in our broom-corn and melon-seed harvest, nearly every one having a crop of his own. *Hodgeman*: Were scarce this year; some went to eastern counties; then crops were good and all had home work to do. *Jackson*: Supply comparatively deficient; many young men are in school; some have gone west to the mountains seeking higher wages. *Ness*: Scarce; young men going further west. *Riley*: Scarce; the more energetic and efficient soon save enough to establish a home of their own, or buy lands further west. *Wilson*: Abundant. *Doniphan*: Plenty at this season, but generally a scarcity from June to October. *Phillips*: Scarce this season, on account of failure of crop in 1890. *Chase*: Sufficient supply. *Clay*: Plenty. *Comanche*: Rather deficient; the county is thinly settled, and laborers can get steadier employment and better wages in counties east of us. *Grant*: Supply has been deficient this season. Crops were better than usual and there were few hands in the country. *Harper*: Great deficiency on account of so many young men going to Oklahoma. *Johnson*: Scarce. *Morton*: Rather scarce; gone to Oklahoma.

NEBRASKA.—*Brown*: Supply equal to the demand. *Cass*: Scarce; railroads pay better wages. *Clay*: During the past year labor has been very scarce, especially since July 1. *Colfax*: A little deficient, owing to large crops. *Jefferson*: Owing to the unusually big crop, there was a deficient supply of laborers. There are four nurseries here which employ many hands, making the average wages somewhat higher than in the surrounding counties. *Kearney*: Abundant till harvest, and then scarce; cause, big crops. *Madison*: Scarcity of help, especially in the region of the sugar factory at Norfolk. Boys have made from \$1 to \$2.50 per day weeding beets by the job. *Redwillow*: A little scarce; always so in a new country. *Cuming*: Scarce, as the rising generation prefer either city life or other pursuits. *Keith*: Deficient; a drought last year caused large numbers to seek the Pacific Coast and there were not enough left to take care of the immense crops. *Lancaster*: In fair supply the

last year, except in corn-husking season, when it is generally scarce. The high wages paid by Nebraska farmers attract help from other States. *Pawnee*: Supply fair, except in husking season. *Rock*: Good, reliable hands very scarce; a large number of the class that usually work out at odd times left this vicinity as soon as their mortgages became due. *Garfield*: Scarce this season; owing to failure of crops in 1890 a great many farm laborers emigrated to seek employment. *Polk*: Scarcity only in corn-gathering time, one man generally raising more than he can gather. *Saline*: Laborers are plentiful, but seem to be averse to following agricultural pursuits, large numbers flocking to the cities. *Stanton*: Scarce, on account of beet-sugar factory located at Norfolk, 12 miles west. *Adams*: Most of the harvest work is done by machinery. *Boone*: Very scarce, probably owing to the cheapness of land making it more profitable to farm than to work out. *Buffalo*: Plenty of laborers till husking time; owing to big crop workmen were deficient in supply. *Dakota*: Scarcity; indisposition to work. *Dixon*: Scarce, on account of increase of farming. *Hitchcock*: Very scarce, owing to drought last season. *Holt*: No demand for them in this county; those employed are from neighboring farms. *Logan*: Great scarcity; many poor men left during the failure of crops last year. *Nuckolls*: Deficient about harvest time; more abundant later; owing to failure of crops a year ago nearly all hands left. *Platte*: Deficient supply. *Thayer*: Deficient; can not tell why. *Wayne*: A scarcity the last six months; new country being developed very rapidly; hence abundance of work to do. *Wheeler*: Sufficient supply only. *Sherman*: Scarce since beginning of harvest and continue so; cause, many leaving last year on account of failure of crops by drought; this year, large crop. *Webster*: Very scarce; large crops; hence greater demand for hands. *York*: Demand and supply about equal. *Borbutte*: Scarce; greater inducements on the railroads. *Cheyenne*: Scarce, on account of building ditches. *Custer*: Deficient because of increase in demand. *Douglas*: Have been very scarce the past season on account of so many being needed in the West on irrigating ditches. *Dundy*: Rather scarce, owing to the relatively increased amount of grain raised. *Fillmore*: Deficient, for the want of disposition to work. *Hall*: Not abundant in the summer season, in consequence of the extensive sugar-beet culture in this county. *Loup*: Scarce; owing to drought last year many moved away. *Howard*: A scarcity of hands to gather corn this fall. *Phelps*: Scarce now, while corn-picking is going on. All left last year on account of failure of crop. *Saunders*: Scarce this fall. An oversupply caused laborers to leave last fall, and they have not returned. *Banner*: Abundant; cause, two years of drought and farmers only getting in line for business. *Blaine*: Shortage the last season, on account of this being a new country and people having land of their own. *Cedar*: Somewhat scarce. *Merrick*: Sufficient supply. *Richardson*: Scarce in harvest and haying. Young men farm for themselves when they accumulate enough to buy a team. *Sarpy*: Good farm laborers are scarce; many save enough to farm for themselves and others go to the western part of the State, where crops and wages are better. *Franklin*: Scarce; men do not like to work as many hours a day as they have to work on a farm. *Harlan*: Very scarce for the last six months, owing to poor crops in 1890 and heavy ones this year. *Nemaha*: Deficient, owing to a sudden increase in the acreage of winter wheat. *Otoe*: Sufficient, but no more. *Frontier*: Very scarce. Owing to drought last year farm hands all left the country. *Gosper*: Scarce; our supply usually comes from the South and West, and as there were good crops in those sections it was not necessary for them to leave for work. *Hamilton*: But little scarcity. *Keyapaha*: Scarce; cause, late seeding and consequent late harvest, with extra heavy crop. *Scotts Bluff*: Abundant; farms are new and small and very little hiring is done. *Hayes*: Labor is scarce; nearly everyone has a claim of his own to farm. *Daves*: Abundant; owing to railroad construction companies shipping in laborers and turning them loose. *Dawson*: Very scarce, many having left on account of failure of crops last year. *Pierce*: Enough to supply demand. *Seward*: Seemingly in deficient supply.

SOUTH DAKOTA.—*Hughes*: Scarce. *Hyde*: Scarce; moving away. *Miner*: Harvest and thrashing hands very scarce, so that thrashing has been much delayed. *Union*: Somewhat deficient the past season, owing to the extra good yield of both Dakotas. *Deuel*: This year they have been deficient, owing to big crops and a number having left the county during preceding dull times. *Meyer*: Deficient, there being but few except Indians in the county. *Roberts*: No scarcity, except in stacking and sometimes in thrashing. *Butte*: No scarcity. *Hutchinson*: Scarce always just when they are wanted. We have had to pay as high as \$2 and board during husking. Were never so short of hands as during and since harvest. *Marshall*: Abundant by the year, but not so in harvest, owing to the volume of work coming all at once. *Spink*: Some scarcity in harvest and thrashing time. *Yankton*: Scarce; cause, abundant crops. *Jerauld*: Rather scarce, because of drought and crop failure in 1889 and 1890. *Beadle*: Very scarce, having left the country in consequence of poor crops and dry seasons. *Bonhomme*: Scarce and poor; in fact we get boys only to work; men rent or take Government land. *Brule*: Very scarce, on account of many having left. *Campbell*: Laborers are scarce, on account of the ease with which they can farm on their own account. *Codington*: Deficient the latter part of season, owing to large crop of grain. *Douglas*: During the season abundant; now rather deficient. *McCook*: Very scarce; cause, large crops. *Sanborn*: Deficient; poor crops in 1889-'90 caused them to go elsewhere. *Brookings*: During the past season just enough to supply the demand. *Hamlin*: Deficiency; caused by abundant crops. *Kingsbury*: Very scarce; cause unknown. There has always been a deficiency of farm laborers. *Minnehaha*: Great scarcity this year, owing to the unusually large crops. *Moody*: A fairly good supply this year; only in crowded times was labor scarce. *Aurora*: Very scarce; many had left on account of poor crops. *Lake*: Great deficiency, with no apparent cause, excepting the increase demand to handle the extremely large crop. *Faulk*: Medium supply; sometimes scarce in thrashing times. *Charles Mix*: Very scarce; 100 extra men could have found employment in this county for the last six months at good wages. *Fall River*: Plenty, on account of railroad shipping in hands all last year.

NORTH DAKOTA.—*Lamoure*: There is a scarcity. *Cass*: We are located on a trunk line of railroad, which accounts for our abundant supply of labor. *Stark*: Scarcity of help through harvesting and thrashing; cause, extra large crop of wheat. *Steele*: Has been very scarce during the present year. *Bottineau*: Deficient, on account of the large wheat crop. *Eddy*: Have been deficient in supply for a year or two, owing to failure of crops of previous years, 1888 to 1891. *McIntosh*: A sufficient supply. *Nelson*: Very scarce; always scarce in harvest. *Oliver*: Very scarce; overabundance of crops and not many laborers. *Ward*: Very scarce. Owing to our late drought the poor and needy class went back east. *Wells*: Supply has been deficient the entire season, largely on account of poor crops for a few years past. *Cavalier*: Very deficient; nearly all take up land of their own. *Logan*: Rather deficient during harvest and thrashing, on account of large crop. *McLean*: Have been very scarce this summer, most of them having gone to work on Montana railroad last spring. *Hettinger*: Deficient supply. Considerable corn wasted for want of help to secure it. *Barnes*: Last spring month hands very scarce on account of high wages in harvest and thrashing, and many young men pushing farther west. *Morton*: Scarce; not enough work for them during the whole year around. *Trail*: Supply deficient, partly on account of crops being large and partly because many prefer work in the cities. *McHenry*: Abundant; mostly new settlers coming in, and some who failed to put in crops owing to previous failures. *Ramsey*: Deficient, owing to the inability of farmers to hire, on account of failure of crops the three years preceding this.

MONTANA.—*Park*: An ample supply. *Dawson*: Scarce; stock men employ great numbers as line-riders and herders, at top wages, and as the work is lighter it is generally preferred, notwithstanding the exposure. *Cascade*: Sufficient to supply demand. *Deerlodge*: Supply very large. The miners when out of work seek employment on farms, but still expect high wages. *Missoula*: Has never been any

scarcity. *Beaverhead*: Abundant supply at all times. *Jefferson*: Enough to meet demands.

WYOMING.—*Carbon*: Fair supply the greater part of last year; the boom in the Gold Hill mines affected the supply at times. *Laramie*: Sufficient to supply all demand. *Sweetwater*: More plentiful in later years, owing to lower railroad transportation. *Johnson*: Scarce; cause, distance from railroad terminus.

COLORADO.—*Eagle*: Supply equal to demand. *El Paso*: Good farm hands are always rather scarce. *Lincoln*: Generally about sufficient labor for the demand. *Logan*: Sufficient for the demand. *Otero*: A fair amount of help of all kinds, many coming from disaffected parts of Kansas. There is so much help during harvest that wages remain the same the year round. *Prowers*: Failure of crops in localities in this county furnished a supply of laborers for the favored district. *Boulder*: Abundant, and have been so all the season. Causes, improved harvesting machinery and the fact that farmers in debt will not hire unless absolutely necessary. *Elbert*: Scarce. The demand is poor and most farmers do their own work. We have to go to the cities to get men. *Jefferson*: Plenty of laborers are on hand. The money they are after is all they care for in harvest time. Hundreds of young men come from the towns and cities in the East and are utterly worthless on the farm. *Kiowa*: Deficient supply. *Pueblo*: Deficiency of skilled labor, abundance of worthless. *Baca*: Extra labor mainly done by homesteaders and their sons. *Couejos*: At times quite scarce, owing to laborers going to the mines, where better wages are paid. *Kit Carson*: Sufficient to supply demand. *Phillips*: A scarcity, most young men having taken government claims. *Costilla*: American laborers scarce, owing to the fact that sufficient unoccupied Government lands remain for occupation under the homestead, preëmption, or timber-culture laws. Mexican laborers plentiful. *Larimer*: Abundant in winter; deficient in summer because more help is required on the stock ranges. *Chaffee*: Scarcity, on account of work in the mines. *Mesa*: Supply abundant; slight scarcity in irrigating season. *Rio Grande*: Abundant; too large immigration of people without means. *San Miguel*: Deficient supply; cause, nearness of the mining district. *Hinsdale*: Good men are in deficient supply, as they can get higher wages in the mines. *Douglas*: Difficult to get those who can be depended on, as they are hunting higher wages elsewhere. *Bent*: Plentiful. *Las Animas*: No scarcity of men, but a majority are very inefficient; will work a day or two and then drift on. White laborers, as a rule, have come west to find something more remunerative than monthly wages and seldom stay long in one place. *Saguache*: Plenty; mostly Mexicans; good white men go to the mines, where their pay is \$3 per day.

NEW MEXICO.—*Colfax*: A good supply of native Mexicans; some scarcity of Americans. *Socorro*: Plenty of help, all Mexicans. *Santa Fe*: Abundant, on account of scarcity of money and scarcity of farms to cultivate. *San Juan*: Scarce, on account of farmer's inability to pay cash promptly, or to hire longer than a few months in the year. Better wages are paid in the mining camps. *Lincoln*: Abundant, on account of large Mexican population. *San Miguel*: Supply greater than the demand.

UTAH.—*Weber*: Abundant; cause, farmers' returns will not admit of continuous employment of hired help. *Rich*: Scarce only in harvest. *Emery*: Scarce; nearly every man has a farm of his own and all take turns in helping one another. *Beaver*: Great scarcity. *Washington*: Sufficient for demand; no surplus. *Wasatch*: Scarce, especially in harvest and thrashing; cause, isolation from railroads. *Uintah*: Very scarce; those able to work go outside, where they can get cash pay. *San Pete*: Generally scarce; the introduction of "self binders" has pretty much done away with the old style of harvesting. *Cache*: Medium. *Morgan*: We are generally short of hands in harvest, but machinery has diminished the work to such an extent that there is but little difference in the supply at harvest and other times. *Piute*: Labor abundant.

NEVADA.—*Lyons*: No trouble in securing all the labor required. *Douglas*: Good farm laborers are in deficient supply. We are surrounded by lumbering and mining districts and their wages are hard for farmers to compete with.

IDAHO.—*Bear Lake*: Sufficient in summer; abundant in winter on account of the winter being too severe for outside labor other than feeding cattle, etc. *Latah*: For the last two years there has been enough to supply the demand. *Logan*: Usually sufficient for demand. *Owyhee*: Abundant; many who worked on the cattle ranges are not wanted there now, owing to the great loss of stock the winter before last.

WASHINGTON.—*Adams*: Always scarce in new countries, from the fact that few men are without farms of their own. *Lewis*: Suspension of work on Union Pacific Railroad construction turned several thousand laborers out of employment, and this made farm labor abundant. *Chehalis*: Usually plentiful. *Garfield*: No scarcity; average supply. Crops south of us ripen and are harvested first, so that we get hands from that direction when the harvest there is over. *Klickitat*: Good laborers scarce all the time; poor ones abundant, except in harvest, when even the poor ones are hard to get. *Pierce*: An abundance of day laborers on account of times being dull. *Kitsap*: Nearly always scarce, because of the high wages paid at the mills, in logging camps, and in the cities. *Whitman*: An abundant supply. *Yakima*: Abundant; cause, large immigration and suspension of public works. *Asotin*: Nominally the supply is equal to the demand. *Douglas*: During harvest scarce; nearly every one is a land-owner himself. *Wahkiakum*: Equal to demand. *Skagit*: Abundant on account of large immigration. *Cowlitz*: Supply greater than the demand. *Island*: Abundant. *Lincoln*: Abundant; light crops; cities dull; many enterprises overdone. *Skamania*: Steady, sober, industrious farm hands are not plentiful. The lumber business and fisheries attract many from the farms.

OREGON.—*Baker*: At this time of year plentiful, but not so in the summer, as they go to the mines. *Benton*: Supply about equal to demand, except during the rainy season, when it is greater than the demand. *Linn*: Said to be plenty for all needed purposes. *Marion*: Supply and demand about equal. *Josephine*: Plenty of farm laborers, apparently. *Columbia*: Abundant, owing to immigration. *Morrow*: About equal to demand. *Wasco*: Some scarcity in summer, but abundant now that all the lumber mills have shut down. *Coos*: Deficient; sawmills and logging camps, fisheries and coal mines attract many laborers from the farms because of better wages. *Harney*: Generally deficient during haymaking, on account of immense crop, but the rest of the year abundant. *Klamath*: Usually plentiful, except in harvest and haying. *Polk*: Just about equal to the demand. *Curry*: Supply just about equals the demand; it is sometimes deficient during harvest, owing to the adjacent salmon fishery. *Douglas*: Sufficient supply. *Gilliam*: Deficient supply last year, abundant harvest being the cause. *Grant*: Sufficient, except in harvest time. *Malheur*: Abundant; cause, scarcity of money and no public works in the country. *Tillamook*: Abundant, owing to immigration into Oregon. *Union*: Reasonably plentiful, except in harvest.

CALIFORNIA.—*Nevada*: Abundant in winter, owing to machinery supplying their places. *Calaveras*: Plenty. *Tehama*: A sufficient supply. *Tulare*: Supply equal to demand. *Santa Clara*: Supply equal to demand, except in harvest and fruit season. *Sutter*: Equal to but not in excess of demand. *San Benito*: Just now abundant; deficient during last grain, hay, and fruit harvest. Most of the transient laborers are migratory—necessarily so, with the present system of hiring. *Solano*: Abundant. *Trinity*: White farm laborers are scarce, for the reason that Chinese cut the wages down and white men find other employment. *Yolo*: Plentiful. No special cause. When work is plentiful laborers come; when scarce they go. *Amador*: Not overabundant; cause, many hands employed at quartz mining and milling. *Fresno*: An abundant supply at all times. The tramp element is largely relied on for farm laborers. Steady, temperate men can get work by the year at \$30 per month. *Sacramento*: Abundant. There is a large floating population who depend on transient labor. *Santa Barbara*: Supply is short. Excluding Chinamen is the chief cause. *Contra Costa*: Supply generally equal to demand, except at special periods in fruit harvest. *San Mateo*: Supply and demand fairly balanced. *Shasta*: Usually an ample

supply. Mining and lumbering draw the best hands and keep wages up. *San Joaquin*: Supply equal to demand. *Humboldt*: No deficiency. *Colusa*: Good men are scarce. *Lassen*: Generally scarce, as all good workers soon take up land for themselves. *Los Angeles*: About enough living in this vicinity to supply the need. *Merced*: There is never a scarcity, except when caused by a very abundant harvest. *Butte*: Abundant; improved machinery takes the place of help, but requires more skill. *Inyo*: Scarce in harvest. *Modoc*: Sufficient supply. *Mono*: Usually deficient, as there is no employment to keep them in the neighborhood after harvest. *Monterey*: Abundant; cause, too many tramps. *Santa Cruz*: Deficient; the demand not being continuous for the year they seek other employment. *Stanislaus*: Scarce, because the farmers can not afford the wages asked.

WAGES IN EARLIER YEARS.

The first of the series of official investigations into the local rates of wages paid for agricultural labor was in 1866. Similar detailed and complete data for the whole country are not available for any earlier date but there are, of course, local records in existence in many districts, kept generally by farmers, more careful and methodical in their business matters than the majority of those engaged in that occupation, which, when taken together, will throw a considerable light upon the rates paid for farm labor in earlier years.

With a view to bringing out these local records as far as possible, and consolidating scattered data into an authoritative statement, correspondents were requested to secure and forward records or copies of any records relating to rates of wages current for farm labor for any year or period of years prior to 1865. This request has resulted in the gathering together of fragmentary records and local data, which before were unavailable or in themselves insufficient for use in any comparisons, and their consolidation and presentation in a form which makes them valuable for reference, comparison, or analysis.

It is not to be expected that material gathered in this manner from all sections of the country representing all branches of rural labor, made up of fragments, of value only when properly fitted into a whole, can be complete and harmonious in all its parts. Its parts may fit and blend with wonderful accuracy, but there must be points at which the harmony of proportion is disturbed. There are good reasons why there should be greater local variations in rates paid for the same services in different districts during the period under consideration than appear now or in recent investigations. In early days, when population was scattered and the means of intercommunication less efficient than now, there might easily be a surplus of certain kinds of labor in one section and a deficiency in another, giving in old records a high rate in one place and a low one in another not far distant.

The results of the inquiry as to old records have been tabulated as far as possible and will be presented by States or contiguous districts. Naturally such records are comparatively numerous in New England and cover a long period of time. That section was settled by a careful, methodical people, alive to the necessity of keeping an accurate

record in detail of their business transactions. In Maine transient wages, during the years between 1840 and 1860, ranged at about 50 cents per day, though in some districts there was a tendency to advance toward the close of the period. Wages by the month with board ranged from \$10 to \$13, with a similar tendency toward a rise. The outbreak of the war, draining the country of its surplus of labor naturally caused a sharp advance in wages in Maine, as in all other sections, but before this time an increase had begun, the result of a gradual changing of industrial conditions. The establishment of manufactures gradually drew labor from the farm, and in districts where the diversification of labor was most marked monthly wages had risen to about \$20 before 1860. With this rise the employment of improved machinery became more general, and labor has become much more effective than when lower wages ruled. The difference in conditions surrounding labor may be appreciated from the remark of a New Hampshire correspondent that, in 1841, "50 cents was paid for a day's work, which consisted of going into the fields as soon as it was light and working until 9 o'clock at night," while a Massachusetts correspondent worked one year in 1852 for \$100 and a suit of clothes, and paid \$300 in 1870 for the same period of service.

From account books belonging to the ancestors of David E. Hoxie, of Leeds, Hampshire County, Mass., the following statement, showing actual wages paid at different dates during the years 1840 to 1862 for various classes of farm labor, is taken:

Years.		With board.	Without board.
1840	Five months from June 1 to November per month..	\$13. 50	.....
	Eight months from December 1..... do.....	14. 50	.....
	January, one month..... do.....	10. 00	.....
	April 1 to June 1..... do.....	14. 50	.....
	June 8, six months..... do.....	13. 50	.....
	January, hand and yoke cattle per day..	.....	\$2. 00
	Getting out manure..... do.....	. 75	.....
	July, haying..... do.....	1. 00	.....
1841	..... per year.....	125. 00	.....
	December to April per month..	11. 00	.....
1842	April, seven months..... do.....	12. 00	.....
	December, one month..... do.....	8. 00	.....
	December, eight months..... do.....	14. 50	.....
	April to September, five months..... do.....	13. 00	.....
	March..... per day..	. 67	.....
	October, one month..... per month..	10. 00	.....
	Eight months, from April 1..... do.....	.....	14. 50
	May, hand, one day..... per day..	.....	. 83
	..... do.....	.....	. 75
	July, mowing..... do.....	.....	1. 00
	Seven months from April 1..... per month..	.....	12. 00
	..... do.....	.....	10. 00
	Four months from December 1..... do.....	.....	10. 00
1843	September, one month..... do.....	9. 00	.....
	October, one month..... do.....	5. 50	.....
	November, four months..... do.....	8. 00	.....
	April, seven months..... do.....	14. 50	.....
1844	April, eight months..... do.....	12. 50	.....
	..... do.....	14. 50	.....
1845	October, digging potatoes..... per day..	.....	. 67
	April, eight months..... per month..	14. 00	.....
	December, four months..... do.....	10. 00	.....
1846	April, eight months..... do.....	14. 50	.....
	..... do.....	12. 50	.....
1847	December, three and a half months..... do.....	11. 00	.....
	April, eight months..... do.....	12. 50	.....
	April, four months..... do.....	10. 00	.....

Years.		With board.	Without board.
1848	April, eight months.....per month.....	\$14.50	.....
	April, four months.....do.....	11.00	.....
	April, six months.....do.....	15.00	.....
	December, four months.....do.....	11.00	.....
1854	Eight months, from April to December.....do.....	14.50	.....
1855	April, eight months.....do.....	14.50	.....
	May, work one day.....do.....	.67	.....
	August 1 to September 17.....per day.....	.75	.....
	September 22 to October 24.....per month.....		\$15.00
	April 16 to December 20.....do.....	15.00	.....
1856	Three months, from January 1.....do.....	15.00	.....
	April 21 to December 24.....do.....	15.00	.....
	Three months.....do.....	15.00	.....
	June 23 to August 1.....per day.....	1.00	.....
1857	April, eight months.....per month.....	15.00	.....
	October, one month.....do.....	15.00	.....
	November, four days.....per day.....	.50	.....
	August, cradling oats, one day.....do.....		1.25
	May, hoeing, one day.....do.....		.75
	July, haying, one day.....do.....		1.25
	October, digging potatoes, one day.....do.....		.75
	July, seventeen days, haying.....per day.....		1.25
	August, twenty days.....per month.....	15.00	.....
1858	Eight months.....do.....	15.50	.....
	Two months.....per day.....	.67	.....
	May, planting.....do.....	.75	.....
	Haying.....do.....	1.25	.....
	November, fall work.....do.....	.67	.....
	April, eight months.....per month.....	15.00	.....
	October, six months.....do.....	14.50	.....
1859	March, four months.....do.....	12.00	.....
	November, 5 months.....do.....	16.00	.....
	November, three months.....do.....	13.00	.....
	October, four months.....do.....	10.00	.....
1860	Eight months.....do.....	10.00	.....
1861	From February, two months.....do.....	11.00	.....
	March, one month.....do.....	11.00	.....
	April to July, three months.....do.....	14.00	.....
	April to December, seven months.....do.....	15.00	.....
	December, 1861, to April, 1862, three months.....do.....	14.00	.....
	July, haying.....per day.....	1.25	.....
1862	From April, seven months.....per month.....	15.00	.....
	August, haying, five days.....per day.....	1.25	.....

One feature which is common in all records of this class should be pointed out. The figures can not be accepted as averages, and in some cases they may not even approximate averages. The person employed may be a superior or he may be an inferior workman. An example of this is found in the above statement for the year 1843. During that year wages per month were paid at the rate of \$5.50, \$8 and \$14.50 these figures undoubtedly representing different degrees of efficiency of labor. The difference between the first and the last rates is so great that it is possible that the first represents a hired boy or youth.

A very comprehensive compilation, showing wages paid in some portions of Massachusetts in almost every year from 1752 to 1865, is presented. The figures have in each instance been taken from actual records. They must not be taken as averages for the State in the years to which they refer. Their value is invalidated by the absence of place and circumstances. The figures are furnished by our State agent for Massachusetts and in the main have been taken from the reports of the Bureau of Labor of that State. The statement referred to is thus given:

Wages of agricultural laborers.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Years.	Basis.	Amounts.	Years.	Basis.	Amounts.	
1752	Day	\$0.33	1822	Day	\$0.77	
1753	Day	.37	1823	Day	.94	
1754	Day	.33	(with oxen)	Day	1.50	
1755	Day	.36	1825	Day	.74	
1756	Day	.33		Month	16.50	
(plowing greensward)	Day	2.00	(with board)	Day	.58	
1757	Day	.32	(with two meals a day)	Month	13.50	
(with oxen)	Day	1.00	(with board and lodging)	Month	11.00	
1760	Day	.25	(with oxen)	Day	1.50	
1761	Day	.32	1826	Day	.62	
1763	Day	.33	1827	Day	.81	
(with oxen)	Day	2.00	(shearing sheep)	Day	1.34	
1764	Day	.36	1828	Day	.78	
1765 (plowing)	Day	1.33	1831	Day	.88	
1766	Day	.33	1835	Day	.88	
1767	Day	.27		Month	16.50	
1770	Day	.34	(with board)	Day	.55	
1771	Day	.33	(with two meals a day)	Month	13.50	
1771 (boys)	Day	.17	(with board and lodging)	Month	11.00	
1772	Day	.33	1840	(with board)	Month	12.76
1772 (boys)	Day	.17	(without board)	Month	23.00	
1773	Day	.34	(with board, harvesting)	Day	1.13	
1774	Day	.36	(with board, transient)	Day	.84	
1775	Day	.34	(without board)	Day	1.00	
	Week	1.75	1841	(with board)	Month	13.43
1776	Day	.33	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1777	Day	.56	(with board, harvesting)	Day	1.00	
(with oxen)	Day	1.50	(with board, transient)	Day	.63	
(summer, with board)	Day	.50	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1781	Day	.42	1842	(with board)	Month	13.81
1782	Day	.44	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1783	Day	.39	(with board)	Day	.75	
1784	Day	.39	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1785	Day	.41	1843	(with board)	Month	13.27
1786	Day	.33	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1787	Day	.48	(with board, boy)	Month	5.00	
1788	Day	.39	(with board)	Day	.75	
1789	Day	.42	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1790	Day	.34	1844	(with board)	Month	13.92
1791	Day	.44	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1792	Day	.29	(with board)	Day	.75	
1793	Day	.35	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1794	Day	.54	1845	(with board)	Month	14.37
1795	Day	.53	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1796	Day	.49	(with board)	Day	.76	
1797	Day	.44	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1798	Day	.62	(with board and lodging)	Month	11.00	
1799	Day	.48	(with two meals a day)	Month	13.50	
1800	Day	.42	1846	(with board)	Month	14.06
1801	Day	.58	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1802	Day	.62	(with board)	Day	.75	
1803	Day	.52	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1804	Day	.81	1847	(with board)	Month	14.43
1805	Day	.71	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1806	Day	.93	(with board)	Day	.75	
1807	Day	.69	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1808	Day	.69	1848	(with board)	Month	14.56
1809	Day	.54	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1810	Day	.70	(with board)	Day	.75	
1811	Day	.48	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1812	Day	.85	1849	(with board)	Month	14.69
1813	Day	.96	(without board)	Month	26.00	
1814	Day	.70	(with board)	Day	.75	
(with double team)	Day	3.00	(without board)	Day	1.00	
1815	Day	.87	1850	(with board)	Month	13.71
	Month	13.50	(without board)	Month	18.00	
(with board)	Day	.56	(with board)	Day	.75	
(with board and lodging)	Month	8.00	(without board)	Day	1.00	
(with two meals a day)	Month	10.00	1851	(with board)	Month	14.71
1816	Day	.75	(with board)	Day	.85	
(plowing with oxen)	Day	1.50	(with board, harvesting)	Day	1.25	
1817	Day	.83	(without board)	Day	1.19	
1818	Day	1.49	1852	(with board)	Month	14.67
1819	Day	.53	(without board)	Month	20.00	
1820	Day	.83	(with board, harvesting)	Day	1.50	
1821	Day	.70	(without board)	Day	1.00	
(with oxen)	Day	2.00	1853	(with board)	Month	16.00
(with oxen; with board)	Day	1.50	1854	(with board)	Month	14.67
(with four oxen and plow)	Day	2.04	(without board)	Month	22.00	

Wages of agricultural laborers—Continued.

MASSACHUSETTS—Continued.

Years.	Basis.	Amounts.	Years.	Basis.	Amounts.
1854 (without board)	Day	\$1.00	1860 (without board)	Day	\$0.99
1855 (with board)	Month	14.67	1861 (with board)	Week	4.28
(without board)	Month	22.00	(without board)	Month	15.00
(with board)	Day	1.00	(without board)	Month	20.00
(without board)	Day	1.50	1862 (with board)	Month	19.14
1856 (with board)	Month	14.67	(without board)	Month	26.00
(without board)	Month	22.00	(without board)	Day	2.00
(without board)	Day	1.00	1863 (with board)	Month	19.42
1857 (with board)	Month	14.67	(without board)	Day	2.38
(without board)	Month	22.00	1864 (with board)	Month	20.33
(without board)	Day	1.00	(without board)	Month	29.00
1858 (with board)	Month	15.96	(with board)	Day	2.25
(without board)	Day	1.00	(without board)	Day	2.00
1859 (with board)	Month	16.21	1865 (with board)	Month	23.18
(without board)	Day	1.00	(without board)	Month	32.00
1860 (with board)	Month	15.10	(with board)	Day	1.10
(without board)	Month	21.75	(without board)	Day	1.75
(with board)	Day	1.00			

In this statement it will be seen that the highest rates of wages appear to have been reached in 1865 and the lowest during the last fifty years in 1850.

Some additional local details are found in the reports of Massachusetts correspondents, giving rates prevailing at certain dates in different towns. Notes from these reports from three of the principal counties of the State are presented:

BERKSHIRE COUNTY.—“The best of farm help from 1840 to 1860 were paid from \$12 to \$16 per month, by the year or eight months, and good day laborers \$1 per day”—Town of Dalton. “In 1841 farm laborer by the month, \$10 and board; in harvesting per day, \$1 and board; in 1851, by the month, \$13 to \$15 and board; harvesting, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day and board; other than harvesting, \$1 per day and board; in 1865, per month, \$20 and board; without board, \$32 per month; other than harvesting, \$2 per day, without board; \$1.50 per day with board. These prices I paid to very good help.”—Town of Egremont. “My father says that in his early years he followed the occupation of farm laborer, and in 1840 he used to receive \$8 per month and board; wages gradually rose as more attention was given to farming, until the war; then a good hand got from \$25 to \$40 per month and board. Now farming is dull and the help is mostly of foreign birth, and mighty poor stock at that. Our bright young men leave the farm.”—Town of Savoy. “In 1840, wages in harvest time, with board, \$1 per day; common hands, 75 cents to 87 cents, without board. From 1840 to 1860 not much advance in wages.”—Town of Williamstown.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.—“In 1840 first-class help could be obtained for \$12 per month and board, by the year, and for eight months about \$15 per month and board; these prices ruled to 1860. Between 1850 and 1860, for the year, \$14 to \$15 per month and board. Between 1860 and 1865, about \$20. Good day help, \$1; extra ones, \$1.25.”—Town of Southampton. “In 1840, \$12 per month and board; 1841, \$11 per month; 1842, \$12; 1843, \$10; 1844, \$11; 1845, \$11; 1846, \$12; 1847, \$13; 1848, \$14; 1849, \$15; 1850, \$14; 1851, \$15; 1852, \$15; 1853, \$15; 1854, \$15; 1855, \$15; 1856, \$15; 1857, \$15; 1858, \$16; 1859, \$20; 1860, \$19; 1861, \$17; 1862, \$16; 1863, \$24; 1864, \$26; 1865, \$25; board included in every instance. These figures have been taken from our own books and have required much time, but have been made as accurate as possible.”—L. W. West, Hadley. “From 1860 to 1864 we employed on my farm two good American men at \$13 per month and board. In 1843, being 11 years old, I worked on a farm where two men were employed for eight months, one at \$11 per

month and board and the other at \$12 per month and board; I then thought I was getting good pay when I received \$5 per month with board."—Town of Northampton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY.—“From 1847 to 1850, \$16 per month and board, for eight months; 1851, \$18 per month and board for eight months; 1852, \$20 per month and board, for eight months; 1853, the same; 1854, \$22 per month and board, for eight months; 1855 to 1860, average \$22 per month and board, for eight months, the other four months, \$12.”—Town of Framingham. “In 1840, \$12 per month with board, by the year; \$14 for eight months; \$1 per day for harvesting; 50 to 75 cents at other times.”—Town of Groton. “In 1840, \$13 and \$14 per month, with board, for eight months; 1850 and 1860, \$14 and \$16 per month with board, for eight months; 1861, \$13 and \$14 per month, with board for eight months; 1862, \$16 and \$25 per month, with board, for eight months; 1863, \$20 to \$30 per month, with board, for eight months; 1864, \$20 to \$30 per month, with board, for eight months; 1865 to 1867, \$22 to \$30 per month, with board, for eight months.”—Town of Hudson. “For a series of years from 1840 we could hire good help for from \$10 to \$15 per month, with board. From 1855 to 1860 good farm laborers could be hired for \$12 to \$15 per month with board.”—City of Lowell and vicinity.

The agent for Rhode Island thus contrasts wages and conditions of labor in 1846 and those now prevailing:

An old record shows American help on a Rhode Island farm in 1846 earning from \$16 to \$18 per month and board from March to November, with hours from sunrise to sunset. This was skilled help, competent to work alone and willing to do any kind of work. This class is only obtainable in working foremen to-day, and they work less and command from \$40 to \$50 per month, with rent and fuel. There seems to be no record of any cheap help that were counterparts of the half-informed foreign help of to-day, who, in many instances, refuse to work over ten hours a day.

Our large dairy farms are mostly run by farmers with large families of boys, who do the milking, the help getting around afterwards and leaving before chore time at night. In a record of 1846 we find in Providence County a family of twenty-six strong, healthy boys. There were others like it. To-day a farmer who can boast of five children is a rarity. This, of course, affects the amount of help.

In Connecticut the State agent, as a result of his investigations, states that—

From 1850 to 1855 wages by the year were, without board, \$18 to \$20 per month, and, with board, \$9 to \$12 per month. For the six summer months, \$12 to \$16 per month, with board. For July, \$24, with board. By the day, with board, during haying season, \$1.25, and at other seasons 75 cents.

[By the year, without board.]

	Per month.
1860 to 1865.....	\$22 to \$35
1865 to 1870.....	30 to 40
1870 to 1875.....	35 to 40
1875 to 1885.....	30 to 35
1885 to 1890.....	35 to 40

During the period 1870-1875, for eight months beginning April 1, men received \$25 per month with board, and 1880 to 1885, by the year, they received \$18 to \$25 per month with board.

Our correspondent for Washington County, N. Y., states that he has continuously, since 1840, employed farm laborers, and refers to his own memoranda for the following notes:

From—	Per day, with board, in harvest.	Per day, with board, at common labor in summer.	Per day, with board, in winter.
1840 to 1850.....	\$0. 75	\$0. 55	\$0. 45
1850 to 1860.....	1. 00	. 65	. 50
1860 to 1870.....	1. 75	1. 37½	1. 00
1870 to 1880.....	1. 50	1. 12½	1. 00
1880 to 1890.....	1. 50	1. 00	. 75

Without board, 37½ cents per day to be added to the foregoing per diem wages.

Wages by the month for the whole year, with board, have been: From 1840 to 1850, \$10. 50; 1850 to 1860, \$11. 50; 1860 to 1870, \$19. 50; 1870 to 1880, \$20. 00; 1880 to 1890, \$18. 00.

During the six or seven months of cropping season wages by the month have been about as follows:

From—	With board.	Without board.
1840 to 1850	\$14. 00	.....
1850 to 1860	15. 00	.....
1860 to 1870	23. 00	\$30. 00
1870 to 1880	24. 00	32. 00
1880 to 1890	22. 00	26. 00

Wages varied considerably in each decade, but the foregoing figures compare nearly with my experience, which, I think, is not far different from my neighbors. For a number of years I have paid my main man \$350 per year, find him a good garden, keep his cow, give him house rent, and fuel on the stump, he boarding himself.

During the years following 1840 farm wages in New Jersey averaged about 50 cents per day for ordinary labor and 75 cents for harvesting. Wages by the month amounted to about \$6 to \$8. It was the almost universal rule that laborers were hired with board. Edward Burrough, of Merchantville, Camden County, furnishes the following items taken from the account book of his father, Joseph A. Burrough, of the same county. The original entries are given for the lights they throw upon the conditions surrounding farm labor at that day.

WAGES PAID BY JOSEPH A. BURROUGH FOR FARM HELP FROM 1842 to 1852.

[Furnished by Edward Burrough, Merchantville, Camden County, N. J.]

1845. Levi Johnson, \$7 per month and board. James Bunu, \$8 per month and board. Israel Garwood, 40 cents per day and board. March, Samuel Martin, \$6.50 per month and board.
1846. Stephen Simmons, 40 cents per day. January 12, Perry Simmons, \$6 per month and board. March, Perry Simmons, \$7 per month and board. April 6, Adam Getsin, \$8.50 per month and board for eight months. Rented small house to Perry Simmons, at \$2.50 per month for as long as he shall work for me at \$9 per month and meals furnished him.

1847. Henry Johnson, at \$7 per month. February 17, Stephen Simmons, at 40 cents per day for a year. May 26, James Prunell, at \$9 per month. Let small house to Perry Simmons, at \$2 per month, to pay him \$9 per month and he to keep a cow. August, hired William Pate and Samuel Vehnell, at \$8 per month for four months.
1848. Rent house to Perry Simmons, at \$2 per month, and pay him 50 cents per day for a year, not including wet or bad weather. Carpenter work, \$1.25 per day and board. Hired James Prunell for eight months, three months at \$9 and three months at \$10.50, then three months at \$9. Hired Dennis McSugh for three months, at \$6 per month.
1849. Hired Dennis McSugh for one year for \$100. Rented house to William Harris for \$25 per year, and pay him 50 cents per day.
1850. Hired Dennis McSugh for one year for \$102. Rented house for \$30 per year; wages, 50 cents per day.
1851. Rent house for \$25 per year; wages, 50 cents per day. March, hired Benjamin Foley for \$8 per month. July, hired Robert Foley for \$7.50 per month.
1852. David Walker, at \$7 per month. Rent house at \$25 per year; wages, at 50 cents per day. Peter McSugh, at \$9 per month for four months, and seven months at \$10 per month.
1853. Rented house at \$30 per year; wages, 50 cents per day. Peter McSugh for one year, at \$10 per month.
1854. Hired Enoch Collins, at \$9 per month. June, hired four Germans, at \$10 per month, for one month.
1855. Hired Dennis Morgan, at \$6 per month. Rented house to Humphries at \$2 per month; wages, 62½ cents per day, including meals. Hired Daniel Morgan for nine months, at \$9 per month.
1856. Rented house for \$25 per year; wages, 62½ cents per day. Hired Franklin Dun for nine months for \$100. Hired John Miller for six months for \$12 per month.
1857. Hired Samuel Seers for six months, at \$13 per month. Hired George Seers for eight months at 14 per month. Hired George Fritz for one month, at \$10 per month. Rented house for \$30 per year, and wages 50 cents per day.
1858. Rented house for \$25 per year and wages 50 cents per day if he keep a cow, if no cow kept, rent of house \$30. Hired Isaac Davis, at \$10 per month.
1859. Hired Isaac Davis for eleventh months, at \$11 per month. Hired John Harris for eight months, at \$11 per month. Rented house for \$25; wages of son, \$10 per month and meals.
1860. Isaac Davis, wages, \$11 per month.
1861. Isaac Davis, wages \$12 per month.
1862. J. H. Wilson, wages \$6 to \$7 per month.
1863. Rented house to Isaac Davis free, he to work for me at 50 cents per day. William one month at \$8.
1864. Hired Isaac Pattern for one month at \$10. Hired Still at \$8. August, hired Henry at \$15 per month. Rented house to Isaac Davis free; wages \$4 per week for nine months and \$1 per day for three months.
1865. Hired Hiram Turner for nine months at \$20 per month and board, and continued at same rates for three years.

Richard Coles, of Woodstown, Salem County, N. J., furnishes the statement of the rate of wages paid in different classes for labor in that county, from 1840 to 1865.

Year.	With board, per month, by the year.	With board, per month, for summer.	With board, per day. Harvest wages.	With board, per day. Common labor.
1840.....	\$8. 00	\$10. 00	\$0. 62½	\$0. 45
1841.....	8. 00	10. 00	.85	.50
1842.....	8. 00	10. 00	.75	.50
1843.....	8. 00	10. 00	.75	.50
1844.....	8. 00	10. 00	.75	.50
1845.....	10. 00	12. 00	.75 -	62½
1846.....	8. 50	10. 00	.75	.50
1847.....	8. 50	10. 00	.75	.50
1848.....	8. 50	10. 00	.75	.50
1849.....	9. 00	10. 50	1. 00	62½
1850.....	10. 00	12. 00	1. 00	62½
1851.....	10. 00	12. 00	1. 00 to 1. 75	.65
1852.....	10. 00	12. 00	1. 00 to 1. 75	.65
1853.....	10. 50	12. 50	1. 25 to 1. 75	.65
1854.....	10. 50	12. 50	1. 25 to 1. 75	.75
1855.....	11. 00	13. 00	1. 25 to 1. 75	.75
1856.....	12. 00	15. 00	1. 50 to 2. 20	.75
1857.....	12. 50	16. 00	1. 50 to 2. 00	.75
1858.....	12. 50	16. 00	1. 50 to 2. 00	1. 00
1859.....	12. 50	16. 00	1. 80 to 2. 00	1. 00
1860.....	11. 00	13. 00	1. 80	.75
1861.....	12. 00	14. 00	1. 50	.75
1862.....	12. 00	14. 00	1. 50	.87½
1863.....	15. 00	18. 00	1. 75	1. 00
1864.....	16. 00	20. 00	1. 00	1. 25
1865.....	16. 00	20. 00	2. 00	1. 25

Pennsylvania wages ruled somewhat lower than the New Jersey rate. From 1840 to 1845 in some sections the harvest rate was 50 cents per day; ordinary wages, 33 cents. Between 1845 and 1850 there was a gradual rise to 62½ cents for harvest and 50 cents for ordinary. Before 1860 the rate had advanced to 75 cents for harvest, and ordinary in proportion. Mr. W. B. Bishop, of Strasburg, furnishes memoranda relative to wages in Lancaster County, as follows:

Wages with board, in Lancaster County, from 1840 to 1849, inclusive, were, by the day, 50 cents; for harvest, \$1; by the year, \$10 per month. From 1850 to 1853, inclusive, by the day, 50 cents; harvest, \$1; by the year, \$11 per month. In 1854, by the day, 50 cents; harvest, \$1.25; by the month, \$11. In 1855, by the day, 62½ cents; harvest, \$1.50; by the month, \$11.50. In 1856 and 1857, by the day, 75 cents; harvest, \$1.50; by the month, \$12. In 1858, by the day, 50 cents; harvest, \$1; by the month, \$12. In 1859 and 1860, by the day, 60 cents; harvest, \$1.25; by the month, \$12. In 1861 and 1862, by the day, 62½ cents; harvest, \$1.25; by the month, \$13. In 1863, by the day, 75 cents; harvest, \$1.50; by the month, \$14. In 1864, by the day, \$1; harvest, \$2; by the month, \$16. In 1865, by the day, \$1; harvest, \$2; by the month, \$20.

Until late years very little farm labor was employed without board. From 1840 to 1849 board was estimated at about 20 cents per day for day labor, and about \$4 by the month. Later to 1863, board for day labor, at about 30 cents per day, by the month, \$6. From 1863, 50 cents for day labor and \$10 by the month.

These figures have been taken from the books of one who was actively engaged in farming during the years specified. They represent the prices paid first-class farm labor, hence the figures given for harvest, and by the month, may be slightly above the general average. Before the advent of reaping machines, a good reaper could command a little better wages than one who was only able to bind during harvest.

In the South, prior to 1860, there was practically no free farm labor. The great bulk of the work of the fields was performed by slave labor, and when hiring was done the price of the labor was paid to the owner of the slave. Enough hiring was done in this way to set a value upon labor, the same thing as fixing a rate of wages. Where slaves were hired out for the year a contract between the owner and the person hiring was entered into, setting forth the obligations of the parties. Sometimes this contract was in the form of a note agreeing at a specified date to pay a definite sum, in addition to other obligations for food, clothing, etc. The correspondent of the Department for Cabarrus County, N. C., submits one of these contracts in the form of a note, which is given, names only being omitted:

Twelve months after date we promise to pay ———, trustee to ———, or order, five hundred dollars for the hire of negro girl Minnie. We also promise to furnish said girl with three suits of clothes, two pairs shoes and stockings, one blanket or quilt, and bonnet, and pay all her taxes, State and Confederate, for the year 1865, and return said girl at Concord, at the end of the year, unavoidable accidents excepted.

Witness our hands and seals Jan'y 1, 1865.

The promise is to pay in Confederate currency, and the enormous discount at which it stood at that date explains the apparently high cost of the labor. Prior to 1860, a year's labor of a negro man was worth about \$100 in Virginia and the Carolinas. This, of course, included not only board, but some clothing, shelter, and bedding as well. Women generally, for field labor, were worth about \$45. In the cotton fields of the Gulf States, and in the sugar districts of Louisiana, labor was more productive, and the rate of hire for slaves higher. The rate for able-bodied men was about \$125 per annum; and for women, for field work, from \$75 to \$100.

Wages in Ohio in the years following 1840 ranged very much the same as already reported in other districts of free labor. Transient service outside of harvest cost about 50 cents, while harvesting was paid for at the rate of 75 cents per day. There was a gradual increase until the breaking out of the war, when there was a sharp rise consequent upon the withdrawal of large numbers of able-bodied men from productive industry. The high rates reached during the war period have been nearly if not quite maintained.

Mr. Paul Oliver, of Perryville, Ashland County, furnishes a statement relative to wages and labor conditions between 1840 and 1865, as follows:

From 1840 to 1850 farm laborers hired by the year received \$16 per month without board, and \$12 with board. Wages per day for transient service in harvest were 75 cents without board and 62½ cents with board. Per day, at other seasons, 50 cents with board, 62½ cents without.

From 1850 to 1862, by the year, \$18 per month, without board, and \$14 with board. Per day, for transient service in harvest, 90 cents without board, and 75 cents with board. In other seasons, laborers received 62½ cents per day with board, and 75 cents without board.

From 1862 to 1865, when hired by the year, laborers received \$26 per month with-

out board, and \$20 with board. For transient service in harvest, \$1.50 per day without board, and \$1.25 with board. During other than harvesting, transient laborers received \$1 per day with board, and \$1.25 without board.

From 1840 to 1850 labor and wages remained very uniform. As the energetic young men grew up and pushed West for homes, the younger ones, with a sprinkling from the flow of foreign immigration, supplied their places. The rush to the California gold mines in 1849 and early fifties, unsettled wages a trifle, but the call for laborers to gather in the harvests was repended to by the villagers in every neighborhood, and the women in many cases came cheerfully to the fields and performed the work of men. The war, with its drain upon the young and vigorous men, unsettled wages and advanced the price of labor to correspond with the scale of all other commodities.

Mr. Joseph Allen, of Gano, Butler County, Ohio, furnishes a record which he has kept since he began to work for wages by the month, in 1836. In that year and in 1837 he worked nine months of each year for \$45. The record is presented in tabular form and in detail:

Years.	Monthly wages.	Day laborer's wages.	Female help. wages per week.	Harvest wages per day.
1836.....	\$6 to \$8	\$0.25 to \$0.50	\$0.50 to \$0.75	\$0.40 to \$0.50
1837.....	6 8	.25 .50	.50 .75	.50
1838.....	8 10	.40 .50	.50 .75	.50
1839.....	12 20	.50 .75	.75 1.00	.75 1.00
1840.....	10 12	.25 .50	.50 .75	.75
1841.....	9 10	.35 .50	.75	.50
1842.....	8 9	.35 .40	.75	
1843.....	8 9	.50	.75 1.00	
1844.....	10 11	.62	.75 1.00	
1845.....	10 12	.50 .62	.75 1.00	
1846.....	10 12	.50 .62	.75 1.00	
1847.....	10 12	.50 .75	1.00 1.25	
1848.....	10 12	.50 .75	1.00 1.25	
1849.....	10 13	.50 .62	1.00 1.25	.75
1850.....	10 13	.50 .62	1.00 1.25	.75
1851.....	11 13	.50 .62	1.00 1.25	1.00 1.25
1852.....	11 13	.50 .62	1.25 1.50	1.00 1.25
1853.....	11 13	.50 .75	1.25 1.50	1.00 1.25
1854.....	12 13	.50 .75	1.25 1.50	1.25 1.50
1855.....	12 14	.50 .75	1.25 1.50	1.25 1.50
1856.....	13 15	.50 .75	1.50 2.00	1.50 1.75
1857.....	14 16	.62 .75	1.50 2.00	1.50 2.00
1858.....	14 16	.62 .75	1.50 2.00	1.50 2.00
1859.....	13 15	.50 .75	1.25 1.50	1.50 2.00
1860.....	13 15	.75	1.25 1.50	1.75 2.00
1861.....	13 15	.75	1.25 1.50	1.75 2.00
1862.....	12 13	.75	1.25 1.50	1.75 2.00
1863.....	14 15	.75 1.00	1.75 2.00	1.50 2.00
1864.....	15 20	1.00 1.25	1.75 2.00	2.25 2.75
1865.....	18 25	1.25 1.50	1.75 2.50	2.75 3.50
1866.....	18 25	1.25 1.50	1.75 2.50	2.50 3.00
1867.....	15 20	1.00 1.25	1.75 2.50	2.50 2.75
1868.....	15 20	1.00 1.25	1.75 2.50	2.25 2.50
1869.....	15 18	1.00 1.25	1.75 2.50	2.00 2.25
1870.....	15 18	1.00 1.25	1.75 2.50	1.75 2.00
1871.....	15 18	1.00 1.25	1.75 2.50	1.50 2.00
1872.....	15 18	1.00 1.25	1.50 2.00	1.50 2.00
1873.....	15 18	1.00 1.25	1.50 2.00	1.50 1.75
1874.....	15 18	1.00 1.25	1.50 2.00	1.50 1.75
1875.....	15 17	1.00 1.25	1.50 2.00	1.25 1.50
1876.....	15 17	1.00 1.25	1.50 2.00	1.25 1.50
1877.....	15 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1878.....	16 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1879.....	16 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1880.....	16 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1881.....	16 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1882.....	16 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1883.....	15 17	1.00 1.25		1.25 1.50
1884.....	15 17	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1885.....	15 17	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1886.....	15 17	.75 1.00	2.00 2.25	1.25 1.50
1887.....	15 17	.75 1.00		1.25 1.50
1888.....	15 18	.75 1.00		1.25 1.50
1889.....	16 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.50	1.25 1.50
1890.....	16 18	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.50	1.25 1.50
1891.....	15 17	1.00 1.25	2.00 2.50	1.00 1.50

Another old record, made up from entries in the account books of Mr. M. E. Gray, of Willoughby, Lake County, gives a showing for the northern section of the State:

1840 to 1849, 50 cents per day, and in harvest 75 cents, with board.
 1850, \$13 per month for eight months, with board.
 1851, 62½ cents per day, and in harvest \$1 per day, with board.
 1852, \$13 per month.
 1853, \$12 per month, with board.
 1854, \$12 for eight months in summer, and \$10 for four months in winter.
 1855, \$12.50 per month for the year, with board.
 1856, \$11 per month, with board.
 1857, \$13 per month to 1 man, and \$15 per month to another, with board.
 1859, \$12 per month, with board.
 1860, \$13 per month, with board.
 1861, \$13 per month, with board.
 1862, \$13 per month, with board.
 1863, \$18 per month, with board.
 1864, \$20 per month, with board.

Mr. Gray says in a note that when wages were 50 cents per day, or \$10 to \$12 per month, men were willing to work from sunrise to sunset, but now with wages \$1.50 per day ten hours constitutes a day's work.

The State agent for Michigan writes as to the results of his investigation:

I gather the following interesting items from a class of elderly correspondents and from younger ones having access to their fathers' books:

In 1840 \$7 per month, with board, by the year. Harvesting, 75 cents per day, 50 cents if boarded.

From 1840 to 1850, paid common laborers in winter 50 cents per day, in summer 62½ cents. For haying and harvesting, 75 cents to \$1 per day with board.

From 1840 to 1855 good men got per day, with board, \$1 in harvest, 75 cents in haying, 50 cents for common labor, and \$11 per month with board.

In 1852, 1853, and 1854, worked for \$10 per month in winter and \$13 per month for eight months in summer with board.

From 1840 to 1855 good men got, with board, \$1 per day in harvest, 75 cents in haying, 50 cents for common labor, and \$11 per month when paid by the month. An intelligent correspondent, now 65 years old and a prominent man in his town, says: "In 1846 I worked through the summer for \$11 per month, then the average price; in 1847, 1848, 1849, and 1850, for \$12 per month and board." In 1851, common labor with board, 50 cents to 75 cents,; harvesting and haying, \$1 to \$1.50. Another reports from his books as follows:

[Farm laborers by the year.]

	Per month.
1849, 1850, 1851	\$10. 00
1852, 1853, 1854	12. 00
1855, 1856, 1857	12. 50
1858, 1859, 1860	14. 00
1862, 1863, 1864	25. 00

During the years following 1840 monthly wages, including board, in Illinois averaged about \$8, with a slow but gradual rise until 1860, when it was perhaps double that figure. Hon. E. E. Chester, of the

Illinois State board of agriculture, gives the following showing of wages paid by him in Champaign County from 1859 to 1865:

1859. Average wages per month (with board) when hired for year.....	\$16.00
1859. Average wages per day (without board) for transient service in harvest	1.00
1860. Average wages per month (with board) of farm laborers when hired by the year	17.00
1860. Average wages per day (with board) of farm laborers employed for transient service in harvest	1.00
1860. Average wages per day (without board) of farm or other laborers in transient service other than harvesting.....	1.00
1860. Average wages per day (with board) of farm or other laborers in transient service other than harvesting .....	.75
1861. Average wages per month (with board) of farm laborers when hired by the year	15.00
1861. Average wages per day (without board) of farm laborers employed for transient service in harvest	1.00
1861. Average wages per day (with board) of farm laborers employed for transient service in harvest .....	.75
1861. Average wages per day (without board) of farm or other laborers in transient service other than harvesting .....	.75
1861. Average wages per day (with board) of farm or other laborers in transient service other than harvesting .....	.60
1862. Average wages per month (with board) of farm laborers when hired for the year	18.00
1862. Average wages per day (with board) of farm laborers employed for transient service in harvest	1.10
1863. Per month with board	20.00
1864. Per month with board	22.00
1865. Per month with board	25.00

In the early days, when settlement was rife, but comparatively little farm labor was hired in Wisconsin. Farmers did their own work, with the assistance of their families, and farming operations, as a rule, were carried on as a personal operation. Where wages were paid they averaged between 1840 and 1850 from \$8 to \$10 per month. Money was scarce and 50 cents was considered a fair price for a day's work. These conditions prevailed until about 1850, when there was a general improvement; farmers were in a better position to carry on more extended operations and wages of labor showed considerable advance. By 1855 wages by the month had reached \$15, while harvest hands were paid from \$1.50 to \$2 per day. In 1857 financial difficulties affected the State, and wages, as well as prices of farm products, suffered a very considerable decline. After 1860 the rate advanced and continued to do so until 1865. At that date the prevailing rate without board was about \$30. Before 1850 there was but little settlement in Minnesota, and during the days of early development there was naturally but little hiring of farm labor. Later in the decade conditions became very similar to those prevailing in Wisconsin.

In Iowa, from 1840 to 1850, very little money was paid out for wages. The amount of money in circulation was small, pioneers were poor and

inclined to do their own work, and as farmers exchanged the products of their farms in barter, laborers when hired were largely paid in produce. The nominal rate during the period was not far from \$12 per month or 50 cents per day for transient service. The correspondent for Des Moines County makes the following note as to this early period in Iowa agriculture, which in many respects will represent conditions throughout the settled portions of the State:

From 1840 to 1850 money for work was almost out of the question here in Iowa. The wages were 3 bushels of corn per day or one bushel of wheat. Corn at that time was worth 10 cents per bushel; wheat, 25 to 30 cents, and that in trade mostly. In 1851 wheat ran up to \$1 cash. That year was the wettest season ever known here; many did not plant corn at all, and those who did got *nearly nothing*. Wheat, oats, and hay were fair crops. Common wages for ordinary work at that time ran up to 50 cents a day, and have not been lower since. Harvest wages in 1854 ran up to \$1.50 and \$2 per day, and have remained at that figure until the introduction of self-binders.

Wages and general agricultural operations in Missouri during the early years of development partook somewhat of the conditions of both the free and the slave States. In the years following 1840 the general custom where laborers were hired was to hire by the year. Slaves were taken upon conditions similar to those before noted for the Southern States, the compensation for their use ranging from \$100 to \$125 per year, with board and clothes. This class of labor fixed the price of free labor, which was generally likewise taken by the year. Monthly wages averaged from \$10 to \$12 for the period. A detailed record from the books of Jesse Haigler, of St. Charles County, is furnished by Mr. L. H. Haigler, of Black Walnut, as follows:

- 1848, \$8 to \$11 per month.
- 1850, from June 4 to June 11, 50 cents per day.
- 1856, from December 29, \$175 per year.
- 1857, October and November, \$1 per day; board, at 37½ cents, deducted.
- 1857, from October 15, \$15 per month.
- 1858, from October 27, \$12 per month.
- 1858, during harvest, \$1.50 per day, with board.
- 1859, from July 23, \$15 per month.
- 1859, from August 25, \$15 per month.
- 1859, from November 16, \$13 per month.
- 1859, from July 2, during harvest, \$1.50 per day, with board.
- 1859, from August 2, 80 cents per day.
- 1860, from January 1, for six months \$13 per month, and for six months \$15 per month.
- 1860, from October 1, \$13.50 per month.
- 1860, from September 3, \$144 per year.

In Kansas and Nebraska the conditions in early days of development were very much alike. But little farming was carried on prior to 1855. The local notes from correspondents for these two States are appended:

KANSAS.—*Douglas*: From 1855 to 1865 farm hands were abundant at from \$18 to \$20 per month with board, and \$1 per day without board, just about the prices quoted

now. *Jefferson* : From 1857 to 1861 laborers were scarce, and wages for good hands were \$20 per month with board. *Wyandotte* : Farm laborers received from 1854 to 1860 \$13 per month, from 1865 to 1869 \$25, from 1870 to 1873 \$20, from 1873 to 1876 \$18, from 1876 to 1890 \$16. *Riley* : Very little money was paid out for farm wages in this part of Kansas prior to 1865, for the reason that renters were poor and did the farm work themselves. In 1856 and 1857 I received \$20 per month, with board, as a farm hand among the Wyandotte Indians in Kansas. From 1858 to 1864 wages fell somewhat, averaging about \$17, with board and washing. In 1864 and 1865 and down to 1868 farm laborers were scarce, for obvious reasons. The last two years of the war an average of \$25 was paid in this county, with board and washing. *Harper* : From 1840 to 1850 wages during summer and fall were \$9 to \$10 per month. In harvest it was common to give a bushel of wheat or its equivalent in cash per day for good reapers. From 1850 to 1854 the rate was \$15 per month, with board; by the day, \$1; harvesting, \$1.25; from 1855 to 1857, from \$18 to \$20 per month, day laborers receiving \$1.50, and in harvesting from \$2.25 to \$2.50. From 1857 to 1860 there was a great financial depression and everything declined, farm hands receiving \$10 to \$12 per month and for day labor in proportion.

NEBRASKA.—*Polk* : In 1858 farm hands received \$18 to \$20, and in 1863 and 1864 \$25 per month, with board. *Buffalo* : In the years about 1843 wages on farms were \$10 to \$12 per month, and 75 cents per day in harvest, with board; for corn husking and other work the daily wage was 50 cents. *Box Butte* : In 1854 farm labor by the month, with board, for the best of hands, cost \$8 to \$10. From that time wages increased very slowly till 1861, when they were \$30 to \$35; at which figures, or thereabout, they remained till 1865 and 1866. *Harlan* : From 1855 to 1860 my father paid \$12.50 per month, with board, by the year. *Otoe* : Farm hands from 1840 to 1845 received \$8 to \$12 per month, with board. From 1863 to 1872 they got \$2 per day, without board.

A few local returns from the Pacific coast are presented for the light they throw upon an interesting period of the agricultural development of that important and peculiar district:

CALIFORNIA.—*Trinity* : I employed from five to ten farm hands on the Souden ranch from 1851 to 1863, at wages ranging from \$40 to \$60 per month, with board, the average wages being about \$45 per month. *Marin* : In 1855 wages of farm hands were \$40 per month, with board, but dropped to \$30 by 1865, and since that time have declined to \$25. *Contra Costa* : In 1859 wages were from \$2 to \$2.50, with board, for harvest hands, and by the year for other labor from \$30 to \$40 per month, and there has been a remarkable uniformity in farm wages ever since. *San Mateo* : From 1860 to 1865 wages of farm laborers would average from 50 to 100 per cent higher in this county than at present, especially for good teamsters to drive from four to eight horses. *Shasta* : In 1852 farm hands received from \$75 to \$100 per month, with board, or from \$2.50 to \$4 per day, harvest wages being \$4 per day. In 1855 farm laborers received \$50 per month, or \$2.50 to \$3 per day. In 1860 they got \$35 to \$40 per month, or in harvest \$2 to \$2.50 per day. In 1865 we could hire hands by the year for \$25 to \$30 per month, by paying the usual price per day in harvest, namely, \$2 to \$2.50. All the above figures include board. *San Joaquin* : The first wheat was raised here in 1852, I think; and I think it safe to put the average wages the same as at present, as I can remember no change in my time here. *Sonoma* : In 1853 farm hands received from \$60 to \$75 per month; in 1860, \$35 to \$45, all with board. These figures are for common everyday laborers. Teamsters and good dairymen received from \$5 to \$10 more per month. *Humboldt* : I settled in this county in 1851, and for about the first five years the rate for farm labor, hired by the year, was from \$60 to \$75 per month, with board. The rate by the day in harvest was from \$3 to \$4, with board, that for transient work by the day being from \$2 to \$3 with board. *Los Angeles* : From 1860 to 1870 laborers were very scarce, and wages were from 15 to 20 per cent higher than

now; the mines of this State and the excitement attending the war drew the laborers from the farms. *Merced*: Wages by the month have changed very little in the last twenty years, but are not quite so high as formerly. *Butte*: From 1851 to 1865 wages per month, with board, were \$30. *Mono*: Farm wages have scaled down in the last thirty years from \$60 per month, with board, to the present status.

OREGON.—*Baker*: From 1842 to 1850 the monthly rate was \$12, with board; in harvest the average was about \$1 per day. From 1850 to 1862 wages varied from \$10 to \$15 per month and board. *Benton*: In this county wages for farm labor (except in harvest) have gradually diminished since 1860. From 1850 to 1865 the common wages were from \$2.50 to \$3 per day. *Linu*: The prices I have given are the prices paid for farm labor ever since 1852. Sometimes there have been variations, but these have been the general rule. *Washington*: In 1853 monthly wages were \$50 without and \$40 with board; harvest wages \$2.50 per day without and \$2 with board. Other transient labor cost \$1.50 per day without or \$1.25 with board. In 1854 the rate per month was the same as in 1853, and the daily wages of each class about 25 cents a day less than in that year. Little variation up to 1865. *Marion*: From 1840 to 1850 the average wages for farm hands, with board, were about \$450 per year. *Morrow*: From 1861 to to 1865 wages on farms were \$30 per month by the year, or \$1.25 per day, harvest wages being \$2 per day. All these are the rates, with board. *Coos*: From 1860 to 1870 wages were \$2 per day for all farm work, with board. *Union*: In 1864 and 1865 the rate was from \$25 to \$30 per month.





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